RUBBUCK'S
PATENT WHITE ZINC PAINT.
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The Bombay Gazette.

No. 50,885—New Series. BOMBAY:—SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1897.

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...TH ...
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Commanding fine 200 Apartments, (Opposite Re...
Furnished with all Modern Luxury, Two Minutes from the Park, Kensington Gardens, Imperial Institute, and in the midst of the Fashion...
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QUEEN'S GATE TERRACE, LONDO...

SHIPPING.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL COMPANY.

DEPARTURES FOR EUROPE.

Vessels.	Tons.	Captns.	SATURDAY, 2 P.M.
M.S. CARTHAGE	6926	M. De Hee	2nd Jan.
P.M.S. ORIENTAL	6934	L. R. Mon	9th "
P.M.S. SHANNON	4189	E. Crewe	16th "
P.M.S. CALEDONIA	7388	W. R. Andrew	23rd "
P.M.S. CARTHAGE	6926	M. De Hee	30th "
M.I.S. PENINSULAR	3877	W. A. White	6th Feb.
P.M.S. SHANNON	4189	E. Crewe	13th "
P.M.S. INDIA	7494	R. F. Brine	20th "
P.M.S. CARTHAGE	6926	M. DeHorne	27th "
P.M.S. CALEDONIA	7388	W. R. Andrew	6th March.
P.M.S. SHANNON	4189	E. Crewe	13th "
P.M.S. AUSTRALIA	6301	L. Reeves	20th "
P.M.S. CARTHAGE	6926	M. DeHorne	27th "
M.I.S. INDIA	7494	R. F. Brine	3rd April.
P.M.S. SHANNON	4189	E. Crewe	10th "
M.I.S. PENINSULAR	3877	W. A. White	17th "
P.M.S. CARTHAGE	6926	M. De Horne	24th "
M.I.S. AUSTRALIA	6301	L. Reeves	1st May.
P.M.S. SHANNON	4189	E. Crewe	8th "
M.I.S. CALEDONIA	7388	W. R. Andrew	15th "

The Steamers marked R. I., proceed to BRINDISI, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, PLYMOUTH, and LONDON.
The Steamers marked * proceed to Aden only and Passengers transhipp there to a Steamer for BINDISI and LONDON.
The Steamers marked M.I., proceed to MARSEILLES and LONDON, passengers for BRINDISI tranhipping at Port Said.
Steamers marked M* proceed to Marseilles dy, and passengers cannot be booked to London by longer route by these vessels, but passengers for Brindisi can tranhip at Port Said.
The Steamers marked thus † proceed to Aden only, and passengers transhipp there to a steamer for Brindi, Marseilles, and London.
Heavy Baggage must be sent to the P. and O. ockyard, at Mazagon, before 9 A.M., on the day of sailing.
A Steam Tender leaves the Ballard Pier, at noon, on the day of sailing to convey Passengers on board, and only hand packages will be received. The attention of Passengers is called to the importance of having the Baggage labelled with Port of Destination.

TO COLOMBO, STRAITS, CHINA, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND.

The Company's STEAMERS LEAVE BOMBAY PORT NIGHTLY, usually on WEDNESDAY, ... for COLOMBO, AUSTRALIA, the STRAITS, CHINA, JAPAN, and Return Tickets are issued at favourable Rates.
Cargo Steamers are despatched ... to Colombo as may be required.
For further particulars apply to

J. M. SHIELDS,
Superintendent, P. and O. S. N. Company.
Bombay, 28th December, 1896.

AUSTRIAN LLOYD S.S. Co.

UNDER MAIL CONTRACT WITH THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT.

ACCELERATED SERVICE TO BRINDISI AND TRIESTE, VIA ADEN, SUEZ AND PORT SAID.

Steamer.	Captain.	Tons.	H.P.	Is due at
IMPERATRIX	T. Ilassevich	1,150	750	13th Feb. 1897
IMPERATOR	G. Nicolich	4,119	750	6th Mar. 1897

RATES OF PASSAGE MONEY.

	1st Class.	2nd Class.	Deck
TRIESTE, VENICE, Or BRINDISI	Rs. 607	Rs. 455	Rs. 197

Steamers for BOMBAY leave TRIESTE on board, at BRINDISI on the 6th of each month.
A Surgeon and Stewardess on board of every Steamer.

ORDINARY SERVICE TO TRIESTE, VIA KURRACHEE, ADEN, SUEZ AND PORT SAID.

Steamers.	Captain.	Tons. H.P.	Sail on
GISELA	G. de Grisogono	1,523 750	7th Jan.
MARQUIS BACQUEHEM	G. Costanzo	1,422 750	7th Feb.

RATES OF PASSAGE MONEY BY THIS ROUTE.

	2nd Class.	Deck.
TRIESTE or VENICE	Rs. 607	Rs. 197

STEAMERS for BOMBAY LEAVE TRIESTE on the 20th of each month.
A Surgeon and a Stewardess on board of every Steamer.
RETURN TICKETS
By other Accelerated or Ordinary Service to TRIESTE.

	1st Class.	2nd Class.	Deck.
AVAILABLE for 6 MONTHS	Rs. 1,214	Rs. 910	Rs. 394
AVAILABLE for 12 MONTHS	Rs. 1,366	Rs. 1,062	Rs. 525

THROUGH TICKETS TO LONDON.
1st and 2nd Class Single and Return ... via Trieste, the St. Gothard's, and other Routes.
In connection with the Steamers Triestine Company keeps now Railway Tickets to ... Austrian and German, as well as Tickets by steamers of the "Nord-deutscher Lloyd" (North German Lloyd) to ports of North and South America, Australia, &c., called at by their vessels.

STEAM TO COLOMBO, PENANG, SINGAPORE, HONGKONG, SHANGHAI, AND KOBE.

Steamer.	Captain.	Tons. H.P.	To Sail on
MARIA VALERIE	A. Fellner	4,825 [illegible]	30 Jan. 1897.

Connecting at Colombo with the s.s. AGAMA for Madras Calcutta.
For further Particulars, Freight, Passage, &c., apply to

P. SCAPPA,
Agent.

Sassoon House, 50, Church Gate Street, Bombay, January 1, 1897.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES

FRENCH MAIL STEAMERS
Under Contract with the French Government
DEPARTURES TO MARSEILLES, DIRECT,
VIA ADEN, SUEZ & PORT SAID.

Vessels.	Tons.	Captains.	To Sail on Saturday at noon.
YARRA	4255	Flanlin	23rd Jan. 1897.
SYDNEY	4232	Aubert	20th Feb. "
CALEDONIEN	4232	Blanc	20th Mar. "
MELBOURNE	4060	Duchalard	24th April "

DEPARTURES TO COLOMBO, SINGAPORE, JAVA, SAIGON, TONQUIN, CHINA, JAPAN, AND AUSTRALIA.

Vessel.	Capt.	Tons.	To sail on about
CORANIEN	Schmitz	4,232	14th Jan. 97

Four weekly departures thereafter.
Passengers for Australia Transhipt at Colombo.
A steam launch from Ballard Pier will convey Passengers to the Steamer. Heavy baggage to be sent on board on the day of departure between 8 and 10 a.m.
The S.S. "PERSEPOLIS" Captain Fuenes, WILL LEAVE BOMBAY for KURRACHEE and PERSIAN GULF ports about the 13th January 1897.
N.B.—RETURN TICKETS TO MARSEILLES for nine and twelve months delivered at specially REDUCED RATES.
THROUGH TICKETS are issued, including Railway Fares, from Marseilles to London.
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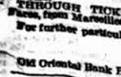
WILLIAM WATSON AND CO.,

BANKERS & AGENTS.



BOMBAY—3, Hornby Road.
CALCUTTA—1, Council House Street.
KARACHI—Dundee Road.
LONDON—Waterloo Place, S. W.
LIVERPOOL—9, Alfred Street.
PORT SAID—Quay 9 opposite Joseph.

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Intend to despatch Steamers as follows:—

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S. S. "KOLA," 1,192 tons on the 2nd January at 2 p.m. or later if English mail is later in arriving.

FOR KURRACHEE via KATHIAWAR COAST PORTS AND MANDAVIE.

S. S. "DUMRA," 1,695 tons, on the 5th Jan., at 10 ... sailing at Veraval, Mangrole, Porebunder and Cutch ... ri, in the foregoing or any order. (Weather permitting.)

FOR KURRACHEE AND PERSIAN GULF.

S. S. "KHANDALLA," 2,040 tons, on the 7th January, at noon, calling at Kurrachee, Jask, Bunder Abbas, Lingas, Bahrein, Bushire, Fao, and Bucreh, in the foregoing or any order. (Weather permitting.)

FOR COAST PORTS AND CALCUTTA.

S. S. "RAJPOOTANA," 2,030 tons, on or about 2nd Jan., 1897.

FOR ADEN, LAMOO, MOMBASSA, AND ZANZIBAR.

S. S. "CANARA," 1,902 tons, on or about 2nd January.

FOR SEYCHELLES, MOMBASSA, ZANZIBAR, AND DELAGOA BAY.

S. S. "NOWSHERA," 3,024 tons, on or about 16th Jan., calling at Seychelles, Mombasa, Zanzibar, Mozambique, Beira, Inhambane and Delagoa Bay.

MACKINNON, MACKENZIE & Co., Agents.
Bombay, 31st December 1896.

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BANKERS AND EAST INDIA AGENTS, BOMBAY.

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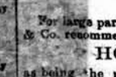

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SLEEPING CAR AND CONTINENTAL RAILWAY TICKETS procured.
RAILWAY OFFICIALS, MISSIONARIES, &c., books, on terms of existing concessions.
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LONDON AGENTS.—Messrs. GRINDLAY & Co.

HOMEWARD-BOUND PASSENGERS AND TOURISTS.

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Parcels without limit of weight, are conveyed from Bombay or Karachi to any Railway Station in the United Kingdom at
6 annas per pound.
Parcels are conveyed to the Ports of London and Liverpool only at the rate of
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For large parcels and packages Messrs. LATHAM & Co. recommend their established and well-known

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Messrs. LATHAM & Co. have also completed arrangements enabling them to accept Parcels for transmission to New York at the rate of
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of the Blood, whether the after-effect of Contagious Disease, hereditary taint, or foul matter of any description are positively carried out of the system by taking "CLARKE'S WORLD-FAMED BLOOD MIXTURE," the great Blood Purifier and Restorer. For cleansing and ... the Blood from all Impurities it cannot be too highly recommended. For Scrofula, Scurvys, ... Skin and Blood Diseases, and Sores of all ... it is a never-failing and permanent Cure. It is ... specific for Gout and Rheumatic Pains, for it ... the "cause" from the blood and bones. ... and of Chemists, &c., everywhere at 2s. 9d. and ... Bottle. Thousands of Testimonials.

ONE BOX OF CLARKE'S B 41 PILLS

... to cure all Discharges from the Urinary ... in either sex (acquired or constitional), ... and Pains in the Back. Guaranteed free from ... Sold in Boxes, 4s. 6d. each, by all Chemists ... Patent Medicine Vendors throughout the world. ... Proprietors:—THE LINCOLN AND MIDLAND COUNTIES DRUG Co., Lincoln, England.

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TWENTY YEARS' RESEARCH has ... to light a guaranteed Remedy for NERVOUS ... the ERRORS of YOUTH, LOST MANHOOD, ... Limbs, Sight, Bladder, Gravel, Kidney and ... Paints, and all diseases of the Urinary Organs. The ... is in the hands of a Minister who will befriend ... suffering from these enervating diseases. It has

CURED THOUSANDS.

... and self-addressed stamped envelope to the Rev. ... Ray Villa, Lewes, England, when the Pre... will be sent FREE OF CHARGE, copy of this Paper

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PACKAGES forwarded to Europe and America by "Eastern Express" at frequent and regular intervals, thus offering the cheapest and best Express Service, before the public.
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An Easy and Cheap method of producing this Gas. ONE POWDER is sufficient to thoroughly disinfect 1,000 cubic feet of Air.
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Per dozen Cash Rs. 26; Credit Rs. 29.
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HAVING first introduced Steel Frame Pianos into India in 1890, we have since that time proved from experience that they are the best adapted to the climate we have therefore had the Steel Frames still further improved in construction, with the result that our TENSE STEEL FRAME PIANOS now give the greatest possible resistance against climatic influence absolute security to the pin plank, and being of steel, a maximum rigidity is obtained with a minimum of weight consistent with strength. These desirable results have been attained after our 36 years experience of the effect the Indian climate has on Pianos.
The TENSE STEEL FRAMES are cast in one piece, and covering the wrest-plank, and not merely an ordinary frame with a separate thin Metal Plate.
The tone is all that can be desired, and is of a pure singing quality, but with a resonance not to be found in the general run of Iron Frame Pianos.
Our imports for the coming season will be the finest we have ever offered for excellence of workmanship, exterior finish, quality of tone, and durability.

SOUNDY & CO., LD.,
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A GOOD SOAP is to the delicate a necessity; to the Stalwart a Luxury.

VINOLIA SOAPS.

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Baby Soap	per box of	3 Cakes	1	8
White Rose and Cucumber	do.	do.	1	8
Marechal Niel	do.	do.	2	4
Violet Soap	do.	do.	2	8
Lys de France	do.	do.	1	8
Shampoo Soap	do.	do.	2	4
Heliotrope	do.	do.	1	8

VARIOUS SOAPS.

		Rs.	a.
Muhlen's Rhino Violets	per Cake	2	8
Jamieson's Arsenical Soap	per box of 3 Cakes	2	8
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MAYPOLE SOAP for Dyeing.			
Various colours	per Cake	0	12
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By Order of the Board,
E. F. STRANACK,
Secretary and Treasurer.
...uary 1, 1897.

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By Order,
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...January 2, 1897.

NOTICE.

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...AG. GENERAL STOREKEEPER.
...eral Storekeeper's Office, Parel, 30th December, 1896.

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LOT NO. 1.

All that piece of Government leasehold land, together with a bungalow thereon, situate near the seashore at Versova near Andheri, being part of Survey No. 82, admeasuring about 4,000 square yards, and bounded on the east by Lot No. 2, on the west by Survey No. 82, and beyond the seashore, on the north by Lot No. 3, and on the south by Lot No. 6.

LOT NO. 2.

All that piece of Government leasehold land, together with a bungalow thereon, situate near the seashore at Versova, near Andheri, being part of Survey No. 82, admeasuring about 3,31 square yards, and bounded on the east by Lot No. 3, on the west by Lot No. 1, on the north by Lot No. 4, and on the south by a private passage, and beyond that also another private passage leading to Lot No. 5, and beyond that Lot No. 7.

LOT NO. 3.

All that piece of Government leasehold land, together with a bungalow thereon, situate near the seashore at Versova near Andheri, being part of Survey No. 82, admeasuring about 4,250 square yards and bounded on the east by Lot No. 4, on the west by a part of Survey No. 82, and beyond it the seashore, on the north by the property of Hajee Mahomed Khimjee, and on the south by Lot No. 1.

LOT NO. 4.

All that piece of Government leasehold land, together with a bungalow or buildings thereon, situate near the seashore at Versova near Andheri, being part of Survey No. 82, admeasuring about 2,592 square yards and bounded on the east by a public road, on the west by Lot No. 3, on the north by a private passage leading to Lot No. 3, and beyond that the property of Mahomed Khimjee, and on the south by Lot No. 5.

LOT NO. 5.

All that piece of Government leasehold land, together with a bungalow thereon, situate near the seashore at Versova near Andheri, being part of Survey No. 82, admeasuring about 2,500 square yards and bounded on the east by Lot No. 7, on the west part of Survey No. 82, and beyond it the seashore, on the north by Lot No. 4, and on the south by Lot No. 6.

LOT NO. 6.

All that piece of Government leasehold land with a bungalow thereon, situate near the seashore at Versova near Andheri, being part of Survey No. 82, admeasuring about 1,800 square yards and bounded on the east by the public road, on the west by a part of Survey No. 82 and beyond it the seashore, on the north by Lot No. 5, and on the south by a part of the same Survey No. 82, admeasuring about 1,200 square yards and bounded on the east by Lot No. 5, on the north by a private passage leading to Lot No. 5, and on the south by Lot No. 7, and that the seashore.

LOT NO. 7.

All that freehold land, together with a bungalow thereon, situate near the seashore at Andheri, being part of Survey No. 82, admeasuring about 2,500 square yards and bounded on the east by Lot No. 6, on the west by Lot No. 5, on the north by a private passage leading to Lot No. 5, and on the south by Lot No. 8 of the Bank's Articles.

By Order of the Board,
E. F. STRANACK,
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January 1, 1897.

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YUSSUNJI WALJI, late of Bombay, Hindu Inhabitant.

ROBERT SMITH, late Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel, Army Medical Staff, Kirkee.

HENRY DONALD ROSSETER, late a Major in Her Majesty's 2nd Battalion Durham Light Infantry, Poona.

All persons having claims against, being indebted to or holding property belonging to the abovenamed estates are hereby requested to state their claims, pay their debts, and hand over such property to the undersigned forthwith. All claims must be sent to the undersigned at his office within one month from the date of this advertisement. At the expiration of the said period the assets of the estates will be distributed, and claims received after that period will not be recognised.

L. RIVETT CARNAC,
Administrator-General.
Administrator-General's Office, High Court, Bombay, 18th December, 1896.

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Century Mills	1,000			
City of Bombay Mills	1,000			
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Commercial	800			
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Hindustan	877			
Hinguwalla Mills	700			
Howard and Ballcombe	1,000			
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Imperial Cotton	1,000			
Indian Manufg.	900			
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Queen Mills	1,000	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs 50
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COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

BOMBAY MARKET REPORT.

FRIDAY EVENING, JAN. 1.

THE New Year opens with gloomy trade pros- pects, and with business almost at a standstill for the present owing to the holidays; and also to the continuance of the Bubonic Fever epidemic, owing to which many thousands of Natives—chiefly of the labouring and petty trading classes—in the scare which is has produced, have left and are still leaving this city for up-country towns and villages, leading to disorganisation in a number of branches of trade. Local consumers of Cotton have been quite out of the market on most days, and export- ers have bought but little; prices, however, having been steady at last week's quotations. Wheat has latterly become quiet in time, with nothing doing, and prices somewhat lower, all round; while Seeds remain steady with a moderate business passing, at some further decline in prices of Lin and Rape. Rates of Exchange have hardened, chiefly under the influence of a better market at Calcutta, and they closed firm on Wednesday for the holidays at an advance of 1-8d. and 3-16d. in Bank and Private Paper, respectively, on last Thursday evening's quotations. Money remains very tight, 3½ per cent. Government Securities have fluctuated a good deal, and closed for the holidays 1½ per cent. below last Thursday's rates; Threes are one per cent. higher; but in both denominations prices have been nominal to a great extent. This has also been the case with Freights, which have been quiet in time with little business passing. Import- business may be said to be partly demoralised, and a number of shops in the different Bazaars having been closed, and their proprietors gone away from Bombay for a time; consequently hardly any business, ready or to arrive, has been done in this direction, and prices of staple Man- chester goods, when not nominal, are rather lower.

MONEY.—The Statement of Affairs of the Pre- sidency Bank issued on Monday embraced but three days of last week, the Bank having closed for the holidays on Wednesday in last week after the Directors, in view of the increasing stringency of the market had advanced their minimum rate to 10 per cent. In the curtailed period under notice a further diminution in the Bank's Cash Balance had taken place, say of 15½ lakhs, at nearly 106 lakhs, compared with a reduction of some 46 lakhs in the week preceding; but in the other items making up the return there were few changes of importance. The principal movement had been in Private Deposits, from which withdrawals to the extent of 21 lakhs took place, a slight decrease in Bills Discounted making the net increase in trade requirements about 19½ lakhs, against an addition in the previous week of 12½ lakhs. In Government Deposits there was a total increase at the Bank's head office and branches of 7½ lakhs.

The market remained very tight during the three days during which business was transacted, the Bank having been closed since Wednesday evening for the New-year holidays, the minimum rate having been unaltered at 10 per cent., both at the Presidency Bank, and in the open market.

EXCHANGE.—On the Bank re-opening on Mon- day morning, after the Christmas holidays, the feeling in the market was firm at 1s. 3 9-32d. for Bank Telegraphic and Demand, and 1s. 3 15-32d. for three months' sight Credits, with 1s. 3½d. quoted for Telegraphic to 15th January, 1897, transfer. A fair amount was bought at the latter rate, a few Merchants' Bill having also been placed at the open- ing quotation; and later in the day rates hardened. On Tuesday the market was unchanged in tone at 1s. 3 11-32d. Telegraphic and Demand for Bank remittance, and 1s. 3 9-16d. for three months' sight Credits, at which latter rate a little business was reported; but rates again hardened, 1s. 3 7-16d. for Telegraphic having been reported later. The feeling continued to be firm on Wednesday with 1s. 3 13-32d. quoted for Bank Telegraphic and Demand, and 1s. 3 21-32d. for three months' sight Credits, from which rates temporarily rose to 1s. 3 7-16d. for Bank media of remittance, at which a little was placed; also 1s. 3 3-8d. for Telegraphic, for January transfer, at which a fair amount was reported, and the market closed firm for the New-year holidays, not to re-open till Monday next at the following quotations:—

Bank Bills on Demand		1s. 3 13-32d.	per rupee.
Do.	Telegraphic	1s. 3 15-32d.	"
Do.	4 months' sight	1s. 3 15-32d.	"
Credits	3	Do.	1s. 3 21-32d.	"
Do.	6	Do.	1s. 2 25-32d.	"
Documents	3 months' sight	1s. 3 11-16d.	"
Do.	6	do.	1s. 3 13-16d.	"
Francs	3	do.	164⅜	"
Do.	6	do.	165 3 4	"

GOVERNMENT PAPER.—Rates re-opened on Monday with 3½ per Cents quoted at 100 1-8 and 100 3-16 for Money and Account, respectively, but declined in a dull market 3-8 per cent., closing after some recovery at 99 13-16 and 99 7-8 in the two positions, respectively; 97½ nominal was named for Threes. On Tuesday the market was very dull, and hardly any business was reported either for Money or Account. 99 9-16 was the opening quota- tion for 3½ per Cents in both positions, but the rate fell off to 99¼, and finally to 99 3-8, at which it closed, with Threes quoted at 99, nominal. Rates opened on Wednesday at 99½ for Cash and 98 7-8 for the 5th January Account, for 3½ per Cents, but hardly any business was reported, and the market closed for the holidays at these quotations.

Municipal 5 per cent. Loan is quoted at 133 (nominal). Port Trust Bonds are 1½ per cent. higher, at 105.

SHARES.—This market has been closed through- out the week, and we make no change in our quotations.

IMPORTS.

PIECE-GOODS.—Large numbers of persons are leaving Bombay every day on account of the Bubo- nic Fever scare, and the consumption of staple *Grey Goods* decreases in proportion. Dealers are willing enough to sell at a small reduction in rates, but few buyers come forward to do business on any line. Some 25 dealers have had to close their shops for want of servants, many of whom have suddenly left their service and gone off to their country away from Bombay. These remarks apply equally to *Bleached, Dyed, Turkey-Red*, and to *Printed Goods* of which the Clearances from the Bazaar for the week amount to only some 1000 packages and to *Locally-made* Goods of which the Clearances have been about 900 bales.

YARNS.—The market for *Imported Twist* has been dull, but little business having transpired; but quotations are unchanged and already at their present level. The China markets for *Local Spinnings* remain in the same state as before, and there has been no important movement in Exchange at Hongkong. Business here in China makes is very small; and in up-country makes there is almost no business passing. The Sales for the week here are put down at about 500 bales only, and the market closed quiet, at the following official quotations:—

Twist.....	No. 6s Mule,	As. 4½ to 4⅝	per lbs.
"	" 8s	" " 4½ " 4⅝	"
"	" 10s	" " 4⅝ " 5⅛	"
"	" 12s	" " 5 " 5⅜	"
"	" 16s	" " 5⅜ " 6⅛	"
"	" 20s	" " 5⅝ " 6¼	"
"	" 24s	" " 6⅞ " 7	"
"	" 30s	" " 7⅛ " 7⅜	"
"	" 40s	" " 7⅞ " 8¼	"

COAL.—The market for this mineral is closed for the New-year holidays till the 4th instant.

EXPORTS.

COTTON.—Although this market has been nominally open during the past week, but little business has been reported, local consumers having taken noth- ing whatever on most days; while the purchases for shippers' account have been upon a small scale throughout the week. The feeling has been uni- formly dull, but prices have remained steady at previous quotations.

The receipts of Cotton of the new crop into Bombay during the past week have been 30,000 bales, compared with 35,000 bales arrived in the previous week, and 43,000 bales to hand on the corresponding week last year; and the falling off in receipts of new Cotton to date this year as against last are now 173,500 bales.

The Telegraphic weather and crop reports re- ceived on Monday advised a slight fall of rain since the middle of last week in several districts of the Bengal, Oomrawattee, and Dharwar Cotton circles, ranging from 1 inch 37 cents at Dhulia, to 7 cents at Khangaum; 37 cents having been registered at Hubli, 25 at Delhi and Julgaum, and 20 at Oomrawattee. This had made no change in the position of the crop generally which was being harvested in the Bengal and Oomrawattee circles, and was flourishing in the Broach, Dhollera, and Dharwar districts. The latest news from Broach was that picking had become general, but arrivals were insignificant; while at Wadhwan picking had partially begun, and arrivals were expected early.

Yesterday's official telegrams from the Cotton districts reported a further light fall of rain in parts of the Bengal and Oomrawattee circles, the heaviest registered having been about 57 cents at Oomrawattee; but at Dhulia in that circle 19 cents, with hail-storms, had been noted, and the weather continued cloudy and unseasonable. In the Beawar district of the Bengal circle picking had become general; and at Broach, where there had been no more rain, Cotton was arriving at the district markets in small quantities.

The following are to-day's quotations for full- pressed Cotton with the equivalents in sterling, cost, and freight to Liverpool via Canal, without Com- mission, viz:—

Cotton—		Per candy.	C. & F. Per lb.
Bengal, Fine	January	Rs. 155	3-3/32d.
Do. Fully Good	do	" 147	3 15-16d.
Do. Good	do	" 126	2 31-32d.
Khandesh, Fully Good	January	" 155	3 15-16d.
Oomra, Fully Good	do	" 171	3 11-32d.
Dhollera, Fine	May	" 139	2 31-32d.
Do. Fully Good	do	" 129	2 19-32d.
Do. Good	do	" 112	2 15-32d.
Broach, Fine	March	" 136	2 25-32d.
Do. Good	do	" 124	2 9-16d.

The arrivals of New Crop Cotton into Bombay this season, as compared with last, are as follows:—

	Season. 1896-97.	Season. 1895-96.
	F. P. Bales.	F. P. Bales.
Bengals	93,000	135,500
Berar	70,000	140,000
Khandeish	61,000	114,000
Barsi and Nuggur	4,500	11,000
Hingughat	3,000	6,500
	231,500	405,000

The movements of Cotton to date show the follow- ing comparison with the previous two years:—

Receipts.	1896. Bales.	1895. Bales.	1894. Bales.
For 6 days	32,641	47,419	22,581
From 1st Jan. to 29th December	1,929,311	1,976,955	1,659,590
Clearances to Great Britain and Continent.			
For 6 days	6,535	4,200	3,571
From 1st Jan. to 29th December	780,792	618,465	790,460
Clearances to Calcutta, China, Japan, &c.			
For 6 days	9,171	315	5,011
From 1st Jan. to 29th December	355,528	172,105	163,430

WHEAT which was firm in tone at the close of last week with a moderate amount of export business passing, has since become quiet, and, lat- terly, no fresh transactions have been reported, while prices have declined two annas per cwt making our quotations stand as follows:—

White Pessy, 91 per cent.	Rs. 6	2	0	per cwt.
Do. 85 "	" 6	1	0	"
No. 1 Club Delhi	" 6	2	0	"
Red Delhi	" 5	14	0	"
Hard Yellow	" 6	4	0	"
Red Ahmedabad	" 5	13	0	"
Hard Red	" 5	13	0	"

LINSEED has been taken to a moderate extent by shippers in a generally steady market; but prices of *Linseed* and *Rapeseed* have further given way Re. 1 to Rs. 3 per cwt., *Gingelly* being unchanged in value, the following being our closing quotations this evening:—

Linseed	Rs. 6	3	0 to Rs. 6	5 0 per cwt.
Rapeseed, Yellow Gujerat	" 7	10	0 " " 7	12 0 "
Do. do. Cawapore	" 7	4	0 " " 7	8 0 "
Do. Red do.	" 6	11	0 " " 6	13 0 "
Gingelly, White	" 44	0	0 " " 45	0 0 per Candy
Do. Mixed	" 42	0	0 " " 43	0 0 "

The comparative Imports of Wheat and Seeds are as follows:—

	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts
Wheat for 6 days	11,149	50,423	49,906
Do. from 1st Jan. to 29th December	3,876,804	4,060,637	3,620,773
Linseed for 6 days	6,057	8,374	14,840
Do. from 1st Jan. to 29th December	3,476,144	2,719,745	5,341,344
Rapeseed for 6 days	634	1,444	22,382
Do. from 1st Jan. to 29th December	1,287,917	2,099,308	3,457,894
Gingellyseed for 6 days	5,423	37,360	58,619
Do. from 1st Jan. to 29th December	1,173,106	1,466,945	1,397,513

The clearances of Wheat and Seeds to Great Britain and Continent are as follows:—

	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
Wheat for 6 days	...	30,108	...
Do. from 1st Jan. to 29th December	1,429,672	2,523,933	1,561,048
Linseed for 6 days	...	112,018	29,451
Do. from 1st Jan. to 29th December	3,211,613	2,639,749	5,389,941
Rapeseed for 6 days	8,027	6,003	2,001
Do. from 1st Jan. to 29th December	1,488,541	1,829,327	3,303,108
Gingellyseed for 6 days	4,003	8,101	19,276
Do. from 1st Jan. to 29th December	1,132,843	1,373,825	1,122,818

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COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE—Bombay Market Report—Bombay Bank and Stock List—Bombay Price Current—FREIGHTS.

BANK OF BENGAL.

THE following is the Statement of the Affairs of the Bank of Bengal for the week ending 16th December, 1896, as com- pared with the Statement of 8th December, 1896:—

LIABILITIES.	December 8. Rs. As. P.	December 15. Rs. As. P.
Capital paid up	2,00,00,000 0 0	2,00,00,000 0 0
Reserve Fund	72,00,000 0 0	72,00,000 0 0
Public Deposits, &c.	5,54,81,287 15 2	4,13,40,196 11 3
Other Deposits, &c.	5,80,38,836 10 7	5,77,05,779 13 8
Bank Post Bills, &c.	1,92,33 11 1	1,69,935 5 2
Sundries	20,15,904 2 3	30,05,873 1 9
	Rs. 10,09,65,371 7 6	9,93,86,378 9 11

ASSETS.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Government Securities	42,00,307 0 0	42,36,376 0 0
Other authorised Investments	84,31,867 13 0	81,36,715 4 0
Loans on Govt. and other authorised Securities	2,69,18,940 15 2	2,12,55,618 8 3
Accounts of Credits, &c.	1,75,65,233 1 5	1,90,39,323 2 7
Bills Discounted, &c.	2,33,41,684 0 7	2,69,97,780 9 1
Balances with other Banks	2,80,431 1 0	3,91,519 9 2
Bullion	9,34,14 10	9,363 14 10
Dead Stock	13,25,095 2 11	13,21,327 1 6
Stamps	3,782 7 9	3,406 10 6
Sundries	13,57,906 0 0	13,63,105 2 9
Cash, &c. at Head Office	69,71,133 13 6	70,65,137 15 3
Do. at Branches	1,65,15,396 1 10	1,65,51,908 6 8
	Rs. 10,09,65,371 7 0	9,93,86,378 9 11

The following is the Bank's Memorandum of Liabilities and Assets up to 15th December, 1896:—

LIABILITIES.	Rs.	
Treasury Balance at Head Office	2,02,153	Dec.
Do. at Branches	10,75,447	do.
Other Deposits	2,72,057	do.
Post Bills	40,933	Inc.
ASSETS.	Rs.	
Bank's Investments	2,68,983	Dec.
Loans	3,37,378	Inc.
Accounts of Credit	3,75,939	do.
Mercantile Bills	23,77,894	Dec.
Cash at Head Office	93,981	Inc.
Do. at Branches	36,508	do.

B. B. & C. I. RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 7th November, 1896, on 481 Miles open.

—	Coaching Traffic Receipts.	Merchandise and Mineral Traffic Receipts.	Other Earnings [estimated.]	Total Earnings.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Total traffic for the week	92,093	1,13,000	4,000	2,09,093
Or per mile of Railway	192	243	9	451
For previous 18 weeks of half-year.	16,09,998	21,33,848	67,715	38,19,189
Total for 19 weeks	17,01,991	22,47,848	71,715	40,21,282
Comparison. Total for corresponding week of previous year	1,23,333	1,91,305	2,235	3,16,873
Per mile of Ry. do.	257	415	5	687
Total to corresponding date do.	17,42,122	24,77,653	54,537	42,74,362

Decrease for the week.....Rs. 1,08,972
Ditto to date ..... " 2,53,193

PALANPUR-DEESA RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 4th November, 1896, on 17·28 Miles open.

—	Coaching Traffic Receipts.	Merchandise and Mineral Traffic Receipts.	Other Earnings [estimated.]	Total Earnings.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Total traffic for the week	800	300	10	81
Or per mile of Railway	29	17	1	47
For previous 19 weeks of half-year.	7,393	2,179	83	9,504
Total for 20 weeks	7,793	2,479	93	10,304
Comparison. Total for corresponding week of previous year	450	195	1	624
Per mile of Ry. do.	29	11	...	36
Total to corresponding date do.	7,857	2,859	57	10,089

Increase for the week.....Rs.
Do. to date ..... "

I. M. RAILWAY.

(Week ending 13th December 1896.)

Description.	1896.	1895.	Inc. for the week.	Dec. for the week.	Aggregate Inc.	Aggregate Dec.
Miles Open	752	732	...	...	...	...
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Passengers, Parcels, &c.	54,972	44,988	9,984	...	23,437	...
Goods	61,472	65,618	...	4,146	2,71,786	...
Other earnings	3,336	4,263	...	927	...	14,669
Total for week	1,19,780	1,14,869	4,911	...	...	...
Aggregate	23,13,786	20,33,231	...	...	2,80,554	...

GODHRA-RUTLAM NAGDA RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 7th November, 1896, on 140·57 Miles open.

—	Coaching Traffic Receipts.	Merchandise and Mineral Traffic Receipts.	Other Earnings [estimated.]	Total Earnings.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Total traffic for the week	3,000	7,900	20	10,920
Or per mile of Railway	21	56	...	78
For previous 18 weeks of half-year.	59,411	1,22,189	2,575	2,84,181
Total for 19 weeks	62,411	1,30,096	2,595	2,95,101
Comparison. Total for corresponding week of previous year	4,092	13,411	29	19,462
Per mile of Ry. do.	29	126	...	169
Total to corresponding date do.	57,569	1,23,909	1,211	2,21,786

Increase for the week.....Rs. 65,319

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

[THE CHARGE FOR NOTIFYING A DOMESTIC OCCURRENCE IS TWO RUPEES. THE ANNOUNCEMENT MUST BE AUTHENTICATED.]

BOMBAY.

DEATH.

GLOVER.—January 1, at Frere Road, Bombay, Thomas Glover, Health Department, Bombay Municipality, and late Deputy Assistant Commissary, Government Medical Stores, Bombay, aged 68 years and 6 months. Funeral will leave the house at 7 o'clock this (Saturday) morning.

OTHER PRESIDENCIES.

BIRTH.

BARLOW.—December 24, at Murree, the wife of Colonel J. A. Barlow, A.A.-G., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

GROSSMAN—KROLL.—December 26, at the Cathedral, Lahore, Theodor Henry William Grossman, of Hamburg, Germany, to Emma Marie Bertha Kroll, of Lahore.

STAGGS—ALLAN.—December 23, at Christ Church, Madras, by the Rev. R. B. Feast, Asst. Surgeon V. J. Staggs, I.M.S., Asst. Professor, Madras Medical College, to Amy Jane, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Richard Allan, of Madras.

The Bombay Gazette

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1897.

THE idea still prevails that there is room in the United States, and the British Colonies, for young Englishmen who cannot succeed at home. New Zealand, Australia, Western Canada, and the younger states and terri- tories of America are not now so much in favour as South Africa, still it is thought that in any of those countries a young man with a few hundred pounds cash, or a small monthly allowance, ought to be able to make his way. No doubt he can do so in any of the places named if he has the qualities which would enable him, with the same start, to make his way at home. But he is sent out probably because he does not possess those qualities. Therefore the presumption must be that he will succeed by some inherent virtue of his English breeding, or because the Anglo-Saxons with whom he has to compete have degenerat- ed from the parent stock. This is a great mistake. English breeding and traditions are an absolute disadvantage to a man strug- gling for his livelihood in the States or in one of our colonies. The Anglo-Saxons inhabiting those countries have rather advanced

TELEGRAM.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.]

OSMAN DIGNA ORDERED TO OMDURMAN.

LONDON, [illegible] 1.

Advices from the Soudan state that Osmagna has been ordered to Omdurman.

FRENCH MISSION TO ABYSSINIA.

M. Lagarde, the ex-Governor of Obok, has gone on a mission to Abyssinia.

NEW YEAR'S HONORS.

The New Year's honors list comprises the following names :—

Mr. Cave, British Consul at Zanzibar, be Companion of the Bath.

Sir Frank Lascelles, to be Knight Grand Cross of the Bath.

Mr. Edwin Palmer to be Knight Commander of the Bath.

Sir Joseph Lister and Lord Kinnear to be Peers.

Mr. Roe, Judge of the Punjab, Mr. Carrim, Chief Justice of Hongkong, and Dr. Kyr, Inspector-General of Hospitals, Ceylon, be Knights Bachelor.

THE BRITISH REVENUE.

Up to the present the British Revenue for 9 months is £1,780,000 above that of 1895.

THE DISPOSAL OF MR. NOBEL'S FORTUNE.

Mr. Nobel, the Norwegian and inventor of dynamite, has left almost the whole of his enormous fortune to form an international fund for scientific research.

CALCUTTA RACES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CALCUTTA, JAN. 1.

The following are the results of to-day's races :—

THE GRAND ANNUAL.

Abbott's Syllabus	1
West's Newsboy	2
Charistroon's Never More	3

NEW YEAR PLATE.

Hardwicke's Stowaway	1
Agnew's Voleris	2
Place's Wooraji	3

The race was a great upset, Stowaway being rank outsider. The totalisator paid Rs. 446.

PONY HANDICAP.

Lieut-Colonel Macintyre's Donna	1
Cantelo Forrester's Mulberry	2
Patiala's Little Jane	3

DURBHANGA CUP.

Gall's Comrade	1
Kara's Hotspur	2
Gregory and Mulhbe's Fortunatus	3
De Soysa's Jack O' Lantern	4

INNOVATION HANDICAP.

De Soysa's Cornewall	1
Kruse's Merry Eyes	dead heat
Gregory's Esher	3

In the run off Cornewall won easily.

CHOWRINGHEE PLATE.

Apcar's Lochnes	1
Eastward's Sauceman	2
Lothian's Our Jack	3

SELLING RACE.

Apcar's Carlotta	1
Bob's Sweetpea	2

GAZETTE OF INDIA NOTIFICATIONS.

Home Department—The services of Mr. W. H. Lucas, I.C.S., are placed at the disposal of the Government of Bombay.

The services of Surgeon-Lieutenant Dawes are placed at the disposal of the Military Department.

The services of Lieutenant Wallis are replaced at the disposal of the Commander-in-Chief.

The services of Rev. J. M. MacDonald are placed at the disposal of the Government of the Punjab.

Foreign Department—The services of Mr. L. E. Buckley are placed at the disposal of the Home Department.

Mr. L. V. Cobb is posted as Assistant Commissioner, Ajmere.

Captain Showers is posted as Assistant Agent, Zhob.

Lieutenant Knox is posted as Assistant to the Governor-General's Agent, Baluchistan.

Lieutenant Winter is posted as Assistant Commissioner, Thal Chotiali and Assistant Political Agent, Singawal.

Captain Bannerman is posted as Assistant to the Governor-General's Agent in Central India.

Major Pears is posted as Political Agent, Ulwar.

Major Jennings is posted to officiate as Political Agent, Jhalwar.

Lieutenant Fridenux to officiate as Contonment Magistrate, Nasirabad.

Captain Archer is posted as Political Agent.

Colonel Gaisford to be Colonel on the Staff, vice Major General Hallidoug, vacated.

Admissions to the Staff Corps—Lieutenants Greig and Fagan ; and second Lieutenant Steel.

Captain R. C. Cockerill has been transferred to the Political Agent Zhob.

Captain Manners Smith is posted as Assistant to the Resident, Kashmir.

Captain Pritchard is posted as Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

Lieutenant Minchin to officiate as Assistant Political Officer, Dir and Swat.

Finance and Commerce Department—The services of Mr. Biddulph Deputy Auditor-General are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Foreign Department.

Military Department—Captain and Brevet-Major Kemball is appointed D. A. Q. M. G. Intelligence Branch, Q. M. G.'s Department.

Colonel Waterfield is appointed Commandant Second Class District, with the temporary rank of Brigadier-General.

Colonel Rennick is appointed Colonel on the Staff, vice Waterfield.

Colonel Meiklejohn is appointed to the command of the Malakand Brigade with the status and pay of Colonel on the Staff, vice Waterfield by the Secretary of State, in temporary hardship.

Public Works Department—Mr. C. F. Sykes is confirmed as Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

THE JODHPUR POLO TOURNAMENT.

THE FINAL.

THE DURHAM L. I. VICTORIOUS.

POONA, JAN. 1.

The final of the polo tournament of Jodhpur, on Thursday, was won by the Durham Light Infantry, making it the thirteenth victory in India. In the final they beat the Central India Horse by five goals to one. In the first round they beat the 5th Lancers by 8 goals and two subsidiaries to two goals, and the 16th Lancers in the second round by 6 goals and three subsidiaries to one subsidiary.

PROCLAMATION PARADE.

The usual proclamation parade was held, to-day, on the general parade ground. About 3,800 troops of all ranks were present, comprising the Durham Light Infantry and the Royal Irish Rifles, under the command of Colonel Whitby, of the Durhams ; 2nd Bombay Grenadiers, 14th and 19th Bombay Infantry, under the command of Colonel Lyster, of the 19th Infantry.

Major-General Duncan, commanding the Poon District, took the command, and ordered a *feu-de-joie* ; afterwards calling for three cheers for the Queen-Empress. Two divisions were then marched past in columns of double companies, and returned to the quarters.

After the conclusion of the parade, the 2nd Bombay Grenadiers held the ceremony of the Trooping Colours in honor of the Koregaum Day ; Mrs. Hartigan, wife of Captain Hartigan, placing a lovely wreath on the Colours on behalf of the ladies, and Colonel Mackenzie putting a wreath on behalf of the Officers. Each company was then marched past, the Native officer in Command placing a wreath on the Colours. The whole regiment then saluted Koregaum. A march was played at the trooping after which General Duncan addressed the men in Hindustani. He spoke of the bravery of their regiment at Koregaum, and hoped it would inspire them to similar deeds if called on in the future.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.]

STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

LIVERPOOL, DEC. 31.

The Clan Line steamer Clan Mackazie left here for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta, this morning.

PLYMOUTH, DEC. 31.

P. & O. Co.'s steamer India arrived here this morning.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL NEWS.

LONDON, DEC. 31.

The Liverpool Cotton Market closed quiet. Surats steady.

Good Dhollera	3½-32

The Manchester Market has been ready.

32 per cent. Consols	111 13-16
3 per cent. Rentes	102½
4½ per cent. Sterling Loan	118½
4 per cent. Rupee Paper	93½
Bar Silver	29 13-16

The Bank of England returns for the week ending yesterday show the following results:—Total Bullion, £34,309,000 ; Increase, £400,000 ; Public Deposits, £2,400,000 ; Increase, £300,000 ; Other Deposits, £40,600,000 ; Increase, £4,800,000 ; Other Securities, £34,600,000 ; Increase, £5,000,000 ; Notes and Gold, £24,300,000 ; Increase, £200,000. The Bank's Reserve is 44 per cent. of the Liabilities.

LIVERPOOL WEEKLY COTTON REPORT.

Total Week's sales of Cotton	44,000 Bales.
" " Surats	
" Import's of Cotton	
" " Surats	
" Stock of Cotton	
" " Surats	

THE SERVICES OF BOMBAY "HONOURS MEN."

THE New Year's Honours *Gazette* confers the title of a C.S.I. upon the Hon. Mr. John Nugent, the Revenue Member of H. E. the Governor's Council. Mr. Nugent's services to this presidency during a period of thirty-two years have been very valuable. For nearly a quarter of a century his work in the Secretariat was distinguished by a thoroughness and conscientiousness which met with general recognition. He entered the Secretariat in 1871, and worked his way up in the various Departments. While holding the appointment of Under-Secretary in the Judicial, Political, and Educational Departments, he conducted the duties of Secretary to the Legislative Council from 1877 to 1880. From February to May 1881, Mr. Nugent held the appointment of Municipal Commissioner of Bombay, having previously officiated as Collector of Salt Revenue, Collector and Superintendent of Stamps and Stationery, and Secretary to Government in the Political Secret, and Judicial Departments as well as in the Revenue, Financial, and General Departments. He served for some time in 1881 as Collector and Magistrate at Sattara, and in the same year returned to Bombay to officiate as Secretary to Government in the Revenue, Financial, and General Department ; in which post he was confirmed in December 382. From November 1881 to November 1885, Mr. Nugent ably discharged the duties of officiating Chief Secretary to Government, and then proceeded to Europe on furlough for two years from May 1886. While on furlough, he was in August 1887 confirmed in the appointment of Chief Secretary to Government in charge of the Revenue, Financial, and General Departments. On his return to this county in February 1888, Mr. Nugent assumed charge of and ably and zealously discharged the duties of Chief Secretary till January 1891, when he was appointed an additional Member of his Exellency the Viceroy's Council. Returning to this presidency in April 1891, he resumed charge of the office of Chief Secretary, but was in the following month appointed Commissioner of the Southern Division, and in December 1891 was nominated to the Bombay Legislative Council. He held the post of Commissioner, Southern Division, with the exception of a furlough to Europe from March to December 1892, till April 1896, officiating meanwhile as Chief Secretary, and as Member of Council from April to November 1895. On the 12th the July last, he was confirmed in the appointment of Member of Council in succession to the Hon. Mr. A. C. Trevor. Mr. Nugent has been a prominent personality in the administration of the presidency for years, and in a short period of his service in the Supreme Legislative Council he has done work which has increased his claims upon the public confidence. Until recently it was the fashion to speak of Mr. Nugent as emphatically the man of the Secretariat, and certainly there is no officer of Government of Bombay who has lived more thoroughly in the atmosphere of the Secretariat, preserved its tradition, as it may be added, borne its burdens. The public and the Service to which he belongs have been fully cognizant of the ability, the conscientiousness, and the devotion with which he has applied himself to all the work to which he has put his hand. His work as a member of the Supreme Legislative Council more than fulfilled the expectations that were entertained regarding him. In the discussion on Sir Andrew Scoble's Bill Mr. Nugent gave expression, in plain, robust, and impressive loquence, to the conviction of the enlightened section of Hindu society, putting himself at once "on the side of the angels" and of the Government, and doing a service to humanity and good sense which will not soon be forgotten. Here, as in his attitude to the Factory Act, in support of the Government was discriminating and independent. The sympathy for the operative classes which Mr. Nugent showed on this occasion was, indeed, in harmony with much else in his administrative record. No superior officer of Government has been more sensible to all whose had a grievance or a claim to bring forward and from none have such people been more certain of a fair and patient hearing. Most valuable has been the help that Mr. Nugent has rendered to educated portion of the native community in recognizing the priority of claims of University students to Secretarial employment, and the conscientiousness with which he has secured existing for agencies of local self-government full opportunities for working out their destiny.

Khan Bahur Nowrojee Pestonjee Vakil, the well-known Pakari Contractor, who has been made a C.I.E., hardly deserved the honour. The title of Khan Bahar was conferred upon him, as the recommendati of the late Hon. Sir Charles Pritchard, in recition of his valuable services to the administrat of the Abkari Department during a period of my years ; and the present title is but a fitting recition of a continuance of those services on a more extended basis. Mr. Nowrojee's private char, both in Bombay and Ahmedabad, has been le and discriminating, although as a man of natl reserve and a retiring disposition he has been dr his duty by his fellow-men without ostentation His generous good nature and genial disposition are fully appreciated by those who have come contact with him.

THE GEVANCES OF THE TRAFFIC DARTMENT OF THE G. I. P. RAILWAY.

STRIKE OF GUARDS.

The bat held out by the guards of the goods and passer traffic on the above line to go on strik, no reply was received until yesterday evening the telegraphic message sent by them to the Boa f Directors at home, protesting against the decion in their fair season *batta*, was put into exion last night. The Acting General Traffi Manger, being aware of the attitude adopte b the men, was prepared to meet the emergency and all the trains were started punctually from Victoria Terminus station with the exception the 11 o'clock Poona passenger, which was ti minutes late. A number of guards collected on the platform at 9 o'clock, and there was a good deal motion and excitement at the station. With view of preventing a probable breach of the peace, Superintendent Benison, and Inspector Ballitin were present at the station with a number of Railway policemen, and everything passed off quietly. Mr. Reily, the Acting General Traffic Manger, Mr. Shewan, the Goods Superintendent, Mr. Gast, the Traffic Superintendent, and Mr. Beard, the Traffic Inspector, were present at the station, and under their personal directions new guards were posted in all the trains. These new guards who were taken from the Locomotive Department, neither possessed vacuum nor passed guards' certificates from the Government and therefore it was alleged that the steps taken by the General Manager in putting them in charge of passenger trains, was illegal. In the Raichore Mail, a river and the station-master at Kalian are noted as guards, while in the Jubbulpore mail one of the guards was a Parsee, who, it seems, was not joined in the general movement, and the other guard was a platform inspector. In the first Poona train a shunter at the Byculla station was made a guard, while in the next train for Poona a ticket collector and a driver acted as guards. In the Jubbulpore mixed, which left at 7 o'clock Mr. Smith, the assistant station-master Boi Bunder, acted as a guard.

At 7 o'clock a meeting of the guards was held, at which was decided that no one should resume work till the Agent came to terms with them to the effect that they should retain their double *batta*, at local men should receive consolidated *batta* and that no individual guard should be punish for taking part in the movement.

A tgram was despatched to the Government by the uards' Association, "that unqualified men had be appointed to act as guards by the Traffic Depanent, which was against the rules and hence an illeal step."

A tgram was also received last night from Bhusal that men of the Locomotive Departments refuse to act as guards in place of those who had gone i strike. All the guards who left with the train had to be provided with policemen.

PASSENGERS BY THE HOMEWARD MAIL.

The P. and O. Co.'s s.s. Carthage, Captain M. Horne, will sail, to-day, for Aden, Suez, Gibraltar, Brindisi, Marseilles and London, with the Eggs mails and the following passengers :—

FOR LONDON.

Arabjee Gilbert
Hasan Mr Cyrus
Hwey Miss
Jga, Mr C S
Nathan, Mr F J
Shewan, Miss and sister
Swami, Mr

FOR MARSEILLES.

Grk, Col
trix, Mr
sany, M L
eighton Mr B
Moon, Mr R C
Nasmyth, Mr J S
Stewart, Capt

FOR BRINDISI.

ruce, Lot
ruce, Hon R
Col, Mr
Uloth, Mr H W

FOR SUEZ.

arley, Lieut H K
Liebert, Capt B R

FOR ADEN.

rnott, Ma Genl V
obinson, Lieut
Duff, Capt J M
Maria, Sister Margaret

THERMOMETER READINGS.

THURSDAY NIGHT.—DECEMBER 31.

[illegible]	71·2

FRIDAY MORNING.—JANUARY 1.

[illegible]	66·9
[illegible]	76·8
[illegible]	79·2
[illegible]	78·1

NOTES FROM LONDON.

(FROM OUR LADY CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, DEC. 10.

It seemed as if everyone was at the Queen's Hall on Monday, to hear Sir Walter Besant and Lord Rosebery talk on "The Greatness of London." The seats were full, the passages and platform packed, but the proof of London's greatness in one way is that it can gather monster meetings here and there without making the least apparent clearance of its thoroughfares ; and the multitude within the Queen's Hall, great as it looked, was only a small section of the multitude without. It was a representative gathering of the patriots of Cockneydom ; for there are people who love London well enough to call its grimy mother-earth "patria" who have mustered themselves into an army under the title of the *London Reform Union* to fight for London's rights—for improvement in its municipal government, for the better administration of its public affairs, and for the collective organization of its civic life. With these were associated for the occasion the admirers of Sir Walter Besant, the novelist who has opened up darkest East End London to the world, and the supporters of the ex-Liberal leader in the Upper House, Lord Rosebery, who, as first chairman of the London County Council, threw himself heart and soul into the task of elevating the standard of the life of its population, maintaining purity, unity, and simplicity in the regulation of its public affairs, and in devising just means of distribution of its public burdens.

***

Sir Walter Besant was accompanied by Lady Besant and Miss Besant, who sat near him on the platform. Sir Arthur Arnold, Chairman of the London County Council, also brought his wife, Lady Arnold. Another prominent benefactor of the London masses, Mr. Passmore Edwards, editor of the *Echo*, was present with his wife. Among other recognized in the crowd of well-known faces on the platform was Miss Gous, ex-candidate for the London County Council, Mrs. Homan, and Miss Eve, members of the London School Board, Lady Mary Stuart, and Mr. Stuart, Mr. T. J. MacNamara, the well-known Board School teacher, Mr. Thos. Lough, M.P., author of England's Wealth and Ireland's Poverty, and Mr. Richard Le Gallienne, and Mr. I. Zangwill, representing the new generation of literary Londoners by adoption.

***

Sir Walter Besant went as far back as William the Conqueror to prove that London has been the nursery of our liberties. In payment for the citizens' recognition of the Norman King, he signed a charter—the original document may be still seen, Sir Walter Besant says, at the British Museum—recognising that every man among them should be law worthy—that is free ; that every man should inherit his father's property, instead of the usual plan of having it confiscated ; and that the city should have no over-lord but the King. From that to this, with an odd few trifling exceptions, Londoners have been loyal and successful. To the city companies, Sir Walter Besant gave credit for the good example they showed of what trade unions should be. Each ruled its trade absolutely—it would not allow bad work to be made—it would not allow the masters to tyrannise over the men, it fixed prices and maintained the old poor members. "A revival of these old ideals, when turning out honest work was more thought of than a shorter day or a larger wage, was a thing to be desired," continued the lecturer, but this can only be brought about by a revival of the corporate spirit ; and when and how this will happen who shall say. Touching on the story of Dick Whittington, Sir Walter Besant, with a ruthlessness entirely foreign to his accepted character, which is one of tenderness for every relic of the past, dashed to atoms the belief that Dick the hero was a poor apprentice who had raised himself to be thrice Lord Mayor of London by his energy and perseverance, combined with a fortunate speculation in cats. "Dick was not a poor boy—he was the son of a country Squire," according to authentic documents. After this, who will care to see the ragged boy in the Pantomime standing beside a millstone, while the chimes ring out their glorious prophecy of his future.

***

Sir Walter Besant passed on from London's commercial to its intellectual activity. He spoke of all the poets and dramatists, novelists and artists, scientists, and scholars of various kinds, whom London had drawn to itself. He remarked with a laugh that in the presence of the chairman, Londoners could not claim Scott and Burns as their own. But Shakspeare, Milton, etc., etc., were adopted citizens. Finally, he concluded his appreciation of London by likening it to a beautiful woman, standing by the banks of the Thames and showing neither age nor decay. Always young she looked across the seas she had made her own, and wondered whether her sons were equal to the achievements of the past. Reform her as much as you will, your reform, he said, would only be a change in the fashion of her garments. You would do nothing to that noble grille figure which would destroy the strength of her hand, or the brightness of her eye, or the courage of her heart. Her children might say in the words of Rudyard Kipling :—

"War is our lot and goodly is our heritage,
Humble ye my people and be fearful in your mirth,
For the Lord our God, most high
He made the Deep as dry,
And has smote for us a pathway to all the ends of earth."

***

Then the Earl of Rosebery got up, and with a winning smile, in a soft full voice that filled the hall, proceeded to return thanks to Sir Walter Besant for his lecture. He said that he should have been glad if it had been possible to confine himself to the inanc and luxurious duties of chairman of the meeting. But as it was not, he proceeded dryly to analyse the lecturer's statements. "London, a spite of all Sir Walter Besant might say, excited a little interest to be attracted to it. I confess," said Lord Rosebery, "I have never felt the in proportion to the interest which provincial towns and places feel in themselves, London has ever received adequate notice either from the antiquary or from the historian. Think what pregnant interest invests the streets of London. You cannot touch the railings in St. James's Square without thinking, hideous as those railings are, and dull as are the houses that surround the square, that Johnson in Savage, hungry boys starved by that kind master, Lord Chesterfield, as Sir Walter says, attacks the man of letters to her—walked round that square and swore they would stand by their colours. You have read Sir Walter called London the mother of literature. I am not sure that I am ever disposed to allow that he claims of London to that title are well founded. Stepmother would be a better word. It is quite true that London attracts by the sheer and brutal force of money, and also by the libraries and scientific knowledge that she is able to give in such profusion. She does attract within her walls a greater share of literature than that to which she is entitled. She sucks within herself the literature of others cities, they have come to her, and she has not, as a rule, treated them well. . . . I said that London was a step mother. How did you treat those men of letters in the last century when you got them ? What says the line—I shall be excused if I do not quote with literal accuracy. "The Muse found Scroggins stretched beneath the rug." Her Parnassus was Grub Street, the well-known residence there poets starved and where their bowels were extracted from them by predatory booksellers for a nominal fee. No, we must not put the claims of London too high. She is the greatest city in the world. So will, I think, always be the greatest city in the world, if only her sons and daughters are true to themselves.

***

Taking up Sir Walter's remark that London had never been more beautiful than at present, Lord Rosebery said, he hoped it was not true. You see, sir, in London a beautiful woman. Let the beauty pass. But she is a woman with her arms in one place and her legs in another—her head in another and her heart in another. What is this great province of disjected but populous parishes—I am not allowed to call it a city, because the city of London is only a small part of London—What is this great desert inhabited by neglected humanity. Is it a town, populous indeed, but remote from the seat of Empire ? No, it is the sea of Empire itself . . . and governments living in its midst, breathing its air, living its life, are content to leave it what it is.

***

Then Lord Rosebery in allusion to the lecturer's mention of London as having laid the foundations of our great Colonial Empire, added weight to the assertion by quoting a remark of the Earl of Beaconsfield. The last great speech of Lord Beaconsfield was said the Chairman, on the question of Candahar. Lord Beaconsfield rose at the end of the debate, and, as was not unusual with him, threw over all the previous speakers on his own side. They had said that Candahar was the key of India. "I hear a great deal of nonsense talked about this question. I am told that the Key of India is Candahar, or that the Key of India is Herat. No, my lords, the Key of India is neither but decisively, "The Key of India is London." one nor the other, the Key of India is London."

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"That is a true saying. The Key of the British Empire," "concluded Lord Rosebery, "is London. It is that great city, in which we live. Be proud that you are citizens of so mean city, and determine in so far as it lies with you, it shall be no meaner—not even as mean as it is, for worthy of its central position in the Empire, of its great history which has been opened to you, is the remarkable lecture to-night, and of its unassumable destiny.

***

Sir Arthur Arnold took up the proposing the vote of thanks, the future of London with the motor cars and cycles. Then, when Sir Walter Besant had replied in a few pleasant words, the cheers for London of his lecture was the cheers of thanks to Canon Scott Holland proposed a vote of thanks to Lord Rosebery, and, in doing so, on London's note, spoke of "the characteristics of its warmth children, their joyousness, vivacity, their dancing in of affection. Was there ever such gay dancing in asked as the waters. Arty and Artful pipes?

ting and twisting Highland Schottische to the music of a barrel organ at a street end or convenient cul-de-sac ? Or where could you see happier children than the grimy London Street Arab or the ragged little toddlers in the slums. Then he conjured up a picture of how Londoners love. Certainly we could all supply illustrations from our memories of how ardent and unblushing the cockney is in love, if that is what Canon Scott Holland meant. It was a new light to Lord Rosebery thrown on London life. Orpheus and Eurydice linked arm in arm and making night weird with love songs to an accompaniment of the concertina do not haunt the precincts of the House of Lords, or the quiet shades of Berkeley Square. But they are not the least remarkable feature in the London of to-day.

MEN AND MATTERS IN THE WORLD OF SPORT.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring happy bells, across the snow,
The year is going let him go,
Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold,
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Exit 96—Enter 97. A right royal welcome did the newcomer receive in Bombay at the hands of at any rate the European coterie ; as in two separate places, viz., the Town Hall and the Yacht Club, high revels were held to celebrate his arrival. The Customs ball was a great success, and right jovially did the "Customers"—if I may coin the word for the nonce—treat those who participated in their merry-making. High jinks too with lots of wassail and good cheer enlivened the Yacht Club on New Year's Eve. When the clanging of the dinner bell announced the arrival of midnight and the band clashed out the old winsome tune of Auld Lang Syne we clasped our trusty friends' hand with right good will and wished all and everyone a glad New Year.

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On Sunday last the hounds gave us a real good long run, in fact the longest run of the season, as it lasted over an hour and ten minutes. The pace at the outset was very fast, and a great many of the field had bellows to mend before we got on to Marole Hill. After that things went a bit slow, but the pack stuck to their quarry with the utmost determination and eventually pulled him down in the vicinity of Goregaum. Last Thursday was a horse of quite a different colour, and the sport was of the poorest description. The first jack was lost owing to the overeagerness of the hounds, and the second jack which was found near Sahar after giving us a fair spin for about twenty minutes elected to perish by his own hand and sought the deep recesses of a watery grave in a well. This was a poor ending to a good beginning. I heard another story which was that master jack was fished out and given another run for his life, and that as is so often the case with a wet jack the hounds could not pick up the scent again and that our little friend escaped scot-free. I am no advocate for digging a fox out at home nor even for jack fishing in a well and prefer to believe that the Asuicidewas left to his fate.

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Last week I preached a preachment about the advisability of getting some of our amateurs to act as whips, and the conduct of our hounds last Thursday only confirms me in my opinion as to the absolute necessity of their services being required. In discussing the matter the remark was at once made, "Oh we don't want a lot of fellows hoicking and hollosing all over the place." I am glad to say that I anticipated this objection and stated that we wanted men with whips not voices, flagellators, not choristers. I feel perfectly convinced, and the more I see of the hounds the more is my conviction strengthened that if we want to play the game properly at Santa Cruz we must have some restraining influence over the pack : they are full of dust and our M. F. H. wants real aides-de-camp who would bear him a hand and put the hounds to him when required without galloping and bawling all over the country. Punishment at times is just as essential as cajoling and often more effective. There I have had my say and feel relieved at having been able to have a real good grumble.

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The racing at Calcutta has been taking altogether pretty good. The Maharajah of Patiala must be very happy in having at last secured the blue riband of the Indian turf and he is to be congratulated that his perseverance has met with its just meed. It is all very nice and pretty to say that virtue is its own reward. We all know it, but a real handsome racing cup standing on your sideboard as well emphasizes considerably the correctness of the copy book truism. The scratching of Quiver and the non-placing of Fortunatus must have been a nasty knock to their several supporters, and it is these sort of little plums that cause the hearts of the bookers to rejoice. The Kaye Brothers had bad luck in the accident to their gee, and I hear that the case is much worse than was originally reported and that Idolater has been very seriously damaged.

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I hear from Calcutta that the starting machine over there was not altogether a success, and that what happened here the other day took place there, viz., a jockey was nearly pulled out of his saddle by the ascending strings. They are took slack, and I see that somebody recommends a net instead of the strings. The idea is a good one and without doubt the W. I. T. C. will see to it before our big meeting.

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While we are talking of Calcutta that was a very unpleasant accident that happened at the Viceroy's Levee when one of the attendants let fall a bar of iron on a would-be visitor's head. In the stone age of the world as we are all of us well aware that it was customary to greet the arriving stranger with a club or a chump of rock or any other sort of missile that might be handy. Well, we are nothing if we are not progressive, and so marching with the times in this the age of iron we welcome the visitor with an iron bar.

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There are and have been grand doings at Jodhpore, and I believe the visitors have had a real right royal time of it. I intend, however, to reserve my jottings on the junkettings there till the return of our friends to Bombay, when we stand a better chance of getting hold of the very latest khubber and, gup and so will reserve Jodhpore till next week. The camps, too, will be broken up, and we shall have all the news by then. More of this anon.

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Every reader of the *Asian* in Bombay will regret to hear of the death of my old friend, Fred Gale. Under the pseudonym of *Bracco* he has been for a long time responsible for the very bright and interesting articles upon sport in England, in that organ, which those who care to know what is going on in the auld countrie read with such interest. Poor Gale, he was a real good fellow, and those who know him will miss his bright, cheery happy face.

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The racing at Kholapore has produced another weight difficulty this time ; it was the difference in weight between the G. R., who was originally to have ridden, and the P. R. who was put up. I do not of course mean the actual avoirdupois of the two men, but the penalty which is imposed upon a professional in competition with an amateur. There was, too, another slight wrong weight objection which the stewards, especially as the clerk of the scales was responsible for the error, wisely overruled.

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A home friend has sent me an account of Mr. George Edwardes' latest Gaiety musical play which, following upon the lines of previous productions, is entitled. "The Circus Girl." The lyrics are good throughout, and there is an excellent song for an American barman. Since many of my friends may be suffering from the same symptoms of the festive season as the person alluded to in the song, I hand on the following stanza for their use and benefit :

Supposing you should suffer from depression that is chronic
If only you will trust yourself to me,
I'll fix you up directly with a pick-me-up or tonic
However out of spirits you may be.
Perhaps your little trouble is a 4 a.m. o'clock tale—
Returning from a Covent Garden ball !
Be sure that I'll supply you with a "Morning Glory Cocktail
And make a "Tom and Jerry" when you call.
Champagne, Cocktail, Saratoga, Cooler,
Gin Sling, Negus, Sherry Sangaree—
Mixtures that are Yankee ones,
All are kanky pandy ones,
Name your symptoms—leave the rest to me.
SENEX.

The *Pioneer* writes :—The Hon'ble Mr. Pherozshah Mehta may be congratulated on having established one precedent with regard to Legislative Council procedure which will save a considerable amount of trouble and reference in future. Whether the issue of the matter will be equally satisfactory to himself is another matter. Some months ago Mr. Mehta put a question in the Bombay Council regarding something touching one of the Kathiawar States, which was disallowed by the President Lord Sandhurst, who ruled that the right of question did not extend to the affairs of Native States. Mr. Mehta, however, thought otherwise, and referred the Governor's decision to the Governor-General in Council, arguing that the local ruling should be set aside. In reply the Government of India have simply pointed out that the interpretation of a President of a Provincial Council of the rules which allow or disallow questions is absolute as far as that Council is concerned, and does not admit of any revision or calling into question outside. This announcement will enable all members of the local Councils to recognise the position of the chair, and the futility of appealing against its rulings. As for the merits of this particular case, it would undoubtedly be a bad day for the Native States themselves if they should find themselves brought into the field of interrogation. The very idea of such a thing is enough to suggest a host of undesirable developments—undesirable for the States and undesirable for the Councils. Moreover, the state of the question lists of the Provincial assemblies shows that the unofficial members are not as yet suffering from any want of material.

TABLE TALK.

(BY WALTER BESANT.)

LONDON, DEC. 11.

THEY are proceeding, I understand, with their monument to Louis Stevenson. If they simply put up somewhere a bust of him, as might be done for anyone, deeply loved and prematurely cut off, there would be nothing to be said, and we should all ask permission to be represented by a portion of the metal. Therefore, I wait events. If, on the other hand, they propose a "national" monument on account of his genius—very far from it. If it mattered anything, there is no one, I suppose, who recognises his genius more entirely than myself : but one cannot view contemporary genius in its true proportion. No one knows how a man will be regarded in fifty years ; the monument which we erect to-day may seem exaggerated in fifty years' time. Selection is always going on ; selection and rejection. Look how selection is at work with Thackeray ; with Dickens ; with Tennyson. No one, certainly, will deny the genius of these three men. And, as I said before, if national monuments are to be erected, we should surely begin with those whose place in English literature is not only assured but is well defined.

THE ducking incident at Oxford will, one hopes, lead the undergraduates of the learned place to consider how far the practice, against which the ducking protested, is worthy of young men who might be expected to comport themselves as becomes gentlemen as well as students. To hold up to ridicule, in every number, some tutor, lecturer, master professor, or fellow can only be defended so long as the satire is playful and genial. "Write me," says the playful and genial Editor, "a paper about the Dean as strong as you can short of libel." We abuse the American Press for personalities ; we lament the personal element which is found in certain London journals ; and we find the young men —some of the young men—actually trying to be as "strong" as they can short of libel ! We must not regret the ducking if it is taken as an admonition that undergraduates demand good manners in their papers as well as at Hall and Union.

As was fully expected the complicated difficulties as to the proposed gift to the American Ambassador, have been met by a courteous refusal. It is an interesting situation. Here is a man who has made a great many friends in this country ; he is personally very much liked ; he is going to leave us, to the great regret of everybody who has ever met him ; a paper proposes that we should make him a parting present—it matters not, what—to show our purely personal regard for him apart from his office. It seems simple, but other papers take it up. The man is an ambassador ; he represents his country ; in himself while he is ambassador he is that country ; you cannot make a present to a country. This may, or may not, be sound reasoning. But on the other side also the papers are taking it up. Apparently, there is a certain sour portion of, the American press which thinks that the best American Ambassador is the one who is least liked here. One paper speaks, with the courtesy which distinguishes that part of the American press, of the "leather medal of English appreciation." We need not regret the action of the *Daily Telegraph*, which has the merit of letting Mr Bayard know how much our people appreciate his courtesy and his tact.

THE French on the Niger have been taking down in a phonograph the war songs of the tribes through which they travelled. This opens out quite a new vista of instruments. The war songs will vanish with the war dances, and the language, too, as civilisation enlarges its boundaries. Let us catch all the war songs, and the love songs too, if we can, of all the savages that remain. They will eventually form part of the Phonographic Room of the British Museum. In the catalogue, among the items of interest, will be most noticed : "Specimen of Cockney dialect caught in an Islington tram ;" "The Voice of the Siren, 1896, caught on the Thames ;" "The Agitator of Whitechapel, December, 1896 ;" "War songs of the Dervishes in the Soudan ;" "A music-hall song, date 1896 ;" "Railway Screeches in Liverpool-street Station ;" "The door banging on an American Railway."

Now is the time when we receive shoals and sheaves of circulars. They always astonish—these showers of circulars. They are like showers of frogs ; or showers of blood ; things of which we read ; for a marvel and a wonder. Because—why does anyone send out circulars ? We have to buy a few Christmas presents ; we know the shops where we shall find them ; where we always do find them. Why should we change the shops where the people know us and are civil to us ? Will a circular make us desert our old friends ? But if it should, which circular ? They arrive by the hundred. How can one choose among so many ? If it were any use, which it is not, I would beg the senders of circulars to abstain from sending them to me, because it is quite useless. I cannot, even with the help of my friends, drink more than a certain amount of wine ; I cannot eat more than a limited amount of figs, currants, candied fruits, and plum-pudding ; I cannot buy more than a certain number of books. Do not—pray please—I entreat you—do not send me any more circulars. We are suited ; we are all suited ; we desire no change ; we buy of our own people.

A CORRESPONDENT wishes to make known a certain home where ladies are received at reasonable charges. This is one of the "Homes for Friendly Girls." It is situated at Rostrevor, country Down Ireland. My correspondent says : "I have been in the Home at Rostrevor. In it are a few beds which ladies can have at a low rate, and where they will be comfortable and treated as ladies, under the care of a most kind resident lady. The food is plain, but well served and abundant ; the house is comfortable ; the scenery around is most beautiful—sea, mountain, and wood. The terms are moderate. To members of the 'Girls' Friendly Society,' 12s. 6d. a week ; to others, 14s. 6d. a week. Rostrevor is reached from Liverpool to Belfast by steam ; thence by train to Warrenpoint ; or by Holyhead to Greenore, and thence by train. The climate at Rostrevor is most soft and balmy, quite sheltered from east and north winds, and the walks are lovely." My own very brief visit to Ireland in June last enables me to recommend everybody to go there. We are very foolish to go wandering about in the South of France when this lovely place—this green land of Erin—calls aloud for visitors. To all those who want a complete change of air and scenery, I would say over and over again, "Try Ireland."

I HAVE great pleasure in giving publicity to the short but brilliant career of a young but highly gifted lady. She is now in retreat for a brief term of years ; no doubt she will emerge with a keener and riper scheme for amusing—or taking in—the credulous. Her method was this : she started a magazine ; she stated in the prospectus that the magazine was the organ of a society ; that the society was an association for the advancement of Art, Literature, and Science ; that members would be coached for nothing ; that the society would also teach by correspondence ; that it offered prizes for needlework, painting, and other arts ; that it would receive and pay for contributions to the magazine. Well ; there was no society ; when articles were sent in they were pawned ; the spirited proprietor awarded prizes to imaginary persons or to herself ; she multiplied herself ; she was editor, writer, prize-giver, judge of competitions, pawner of pictures, casher of post office orders ; coach and instructor by letter. It is a truly wonderful case, and, with a little more care, it might have gone on without interruption. The weak point was the promise of prizes never sent.

I was reading, the other day, an account of a famous circle of the last century, in which, according to the historian, the flashes of wit were as continuous as they were brilliant and unexpected. I am always suspicious about circles where wit flashes like forked lightning

REVIEWS.

AS of HONOUR, by H. C. IRWIN (Adam and s Black, Soho Square, London). This is a of the life of a hero during fourteen years in The time immediately preceding the Mutiny luded in this span, and some of the most excit- of the combats and sieges. Before the advent of e terrible days the battle of Chillianwalla, ht in 1849 with Sher Singh, gave Jim Purefoy baptism of fire. In that very dubious victory losses of our troops were something ghastly, arly 2,500 in killed and wounded, besides six f our guns captured. It was on that field and successfully rallying the men of his regiment at the moment that a panic seized them and made the Singhs cry out: "Feringhi dar gye," that Jim Purefoy was first wounded. His gallant and successful dash which reinspired his men, won him the approval of his seniors, and from that moment he was marked out for work that needs prompt action and steady pluck. He kept his head wonderfully in the midst of the high appreciation of his men and senior officers. Five years on the Yakubzai Frontier with the Siwana Horse, whose second-in-command he is gazetted, prepare him for the troublous times of 1857-58. In May comes the news of the rising of the native regiments at Meerut, and soon follows an order to march at once to Lahore and thence to Delhi, the siege of which is in full progress. The description of the storming and taking of the is most exciting. The day is full of glory ell as wounds for our hero. He is not only a n of honour" in facing the enemy, it is in the tic circle that his biographer shows what elicate sense of that much misunderstood virtue is his. We cannot help asking ourselves why ere need have been a thread of hopeless misery the days of such a character born apparently for tion and the sunny side of life. But the perverse- ess of the position made for him by fate, not by himself, is unluckily like real life. This part of the story we must not tell the reader, the romance is woven in and out through the hard every day battle of the good man, who contrives to be the helper and cheerer of his soldiers and his friends, and who never swerves in most perplexing circumstances from his ideal of true fidelity.

A SKETCH OF THE NATURAL HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA, by FREDERICK G. AFLALO (Macmillan and Co., London). This very interesting sketch of the zoology of the Australian colonies deserves to be welcomed with pleasure by the unscientific world. It is published as more or less of a feeler, the author hoping that many Australians, who have first-hand knowledge of the natural history of their own country, may send information, make corrections, and supply notes. The facts relating the life-habits of the animals in that part of the world are told in a lively manner, and the writer having had the advantage of enjoying much sport in those regions, he lightens his work with very vivid notes. A map is supplied in which are marked the places referred to in the book. The peculiar animals that Australia manages to develop belong to a period which the rest of the world has long left behind. All the forms of life are different from ours, some being at opposite poles of difference, all presenting marked idiosyncrasies and features. This is what makes even the most cursory study of Australian *fauna* specially interesting. We must not think that peculiarity and uselessness go together. That objectionable animal, the Dingo, even has its uses, for in the districts from which strychnine has banished it, the Kangaroo becomes a plague, and has to be thinned out by "drives." The author says:—"If the farmers at home could but get a glimpse of the thankless figh- which their Australian competitors have to main-ain against dingoes, kangaroos, rabbits, cockatoos, injurious caterpillars, drought and inundations, they might bear with their own troubles a little more patiently." A great many travellers' tales about marsupials are relegated to things that *were*, and all the latest facts observed in these singular creatures are presented to us. "Most animals," says Mr. Aflalo, "behave, as our travels teach us, in two different ways, one as in books, the other as in nature. . . . In nature, many as are our wonders, the birds and beasts behave in a comparatively rational manner." Having carefully studied them in their own haunts, hunted them, stalked them silently for days, the author is eminently qualified to give us many details of the everyday life and appearance of the Australian animals. The book is well illustrated, is as interesting as a novel, and at the same time keeps its inhabitants in their correct classes. It is provided with an ample appendix and glossary.

EXERCISES IN ANALYSIS, PARSING, ETC. (William Blackwood and Sons Edinburgh and London) is a useful little book, compiled with a special view to the requirements of candidates for examinations. The sentences given for correction are rather longer than usual, this plan being an improvement on the general system of giving very short sentences for correction in which the pupil has no need to search for the error. The selections for analysis are from poets as well as from prose writers. The parsing exercises are somewhat stiff, but in that the compiler errs on the right side. He takes colloquial sentences such as are met with every day, and which really present the unstudied expression of the language.

MR. RAGHUNATH KRISHNA PIMPALKHARE (Ripon Press, Bombay) has published the Bombay University Matriculation Questions in Arithmetic and Algebra with solutions. He intends the book as an aid to the student working up for similar examinations. In thus going over the ground covered by the Matriculation examinations from 1871 to 1895, this little publication presents a very fair average of what may be needed in future trials. The solutions are simply worked out needing little or no further explanation for an ordinary student. They are most valuable exercises for the spare time of the pupil who wishes to be quick at working Arithmetic and Algebra problems.

MR. A GOVINDARAJA MUDALIAR (Addison and Co., Mount Road, Madras) in a small volume, "A Companion to First Arts English Text," gives notes on different works in English Literature in the form of question and answer. Some are original, and others selected from the examination papers of Universities and Colleges both in England and India. The compiler finds that pupils, while often possessed of the knowledge required for the examinations, do not always know how to set about the answers to the questions given. These numerous examples are intended to meet this want. His choice of matter, Henry V., the Morte d'Arthur, Paradise Lost, Green's Readings, and Napier's Architecture, give a considerable variety in style and subject on which to work.

AN ESSAY ON MUSIC, BY RANCHORDAS N. VIVRAJANI (Rajkot Kathiawar Press), offers information regarding Indian music in a popular form. The mythical origin of Hindu songs is referred to, the Indian scale defined, and the different classes of songs and musical instruments described. The author shows us that the Hindu music heard usually by Europeans has really less reference to the real music of the race than the street-singing heard in Western cities has to our concert programmes. There are no less than forty-eight airs prescribed for the different hours of the day, and these again present a great number of variations. But unfortunately the banishment of music from the Hindu home has led to a decay in the art, which it is difficult to arrest, and there is no public society which undertakes to purify the national standard of music or restore it to what it once was according to history and tradition.

HISTORY OF ANCIENT PERSIA.

When the generality of native publications consists of doggerel verses and translations or "adaptations," as they are called by preference, of sensational or sentimental plays and novels, it is refreshing on occasions to come across an original work of real merit. Mr. Palanji B. Desai has long been known as a most ardent and painstaking student of the religion and history of ancient Iran, and his latest work on the subject, while it fully maintains his reputation as a patient and laborious research, far surpasses its predecessors in its vast and comprehensive scope. Tracing the history of the Parsis from the earliest times, he has traced its course; running over many centuries, down to the fall of Yazdezard, the last of the Persian monarchs, and has further traced the fortunes of the Parsis to the land of their exile, India. The book is the result of a prize essay, invited by Mr. Ardesheer S. Camdin, who had offered a handsome honorarium for the best production on the subject. It is rarely that a prize essay is expanded by its author to the size of two rather bulky volumes of solid reading. Although the pages are crowded with too many details, testifying to the labour which Mr. Desai has expended on his favourite subject, and although he has devoted a considerable portion of the book to an extended narrative of mighty wars and wondrous feats in arms which belong, in part, at least, to the domain of mythology, his story is replete with interesting matter, and his manner of telling it is lucid and well arranged. Central Asia, the seat of Ancient Iran, the cradle of religions and civilization, must always prove an instructive and enlightening study to the historian. Its history is a history of mankind in their primitive stages and of the first steps which they took in the civilization which the world of the present day enjoys as a heritage from the past. The late Mr. Freeman has contributed greatly by his writings to explode the old notion of making arbitrary divisions of history into ancient and modern, and dividing them into separate epochs, as if nation did not form part of an organic whole, incapable of standing distinct by itself, bearing no relation whatever to the generations that had preceded it and those that came after. It is now felt that "the present is the sum total of each succeeding generation, while it has its own process of evolution, bearing in its remotest ancestors. On the unity of history, a study of [illegible] and politics, as well as of the manners of ancient Iranians, is essential to a firm and complete grasp of the general history of mankind. Apart from the inherent charm of the subject to Orientalists, this, it may be presumed, is one of the reasons why, ever since Anquetil Duperron struggled, in his ardent pursuit of Avesta study, against the greed and prejudice of the Dasturs of Surat, a long and illustrious roll of European scholars has been drawn to it. And to them the Parsis are particularly beholden for having removed the dust of ages from their sacred books and revealed their meaning to the world. With the productions of these *savants* to draw upon, and assisted to some extent by his own independent researches, Mr. Desai has given an accurate and readable summary of the philosophy and principles of the Zoroastrian religion, of the partial monotheism of the Mazdyashni religion of Gaiomard and Hom, which preceded the purer monotheism of Zoroaster and paved the way for the faith preached by him, and of the additions, accretions, and corruptions which Zoroastrianism subsequently underwent under sacerdotal influences, as well as in consequence of a long intercourse with other races, like Assyrians and Babylonians. As contact and conflict with these races influenced the social life, as well as the religion of the Iranians, it would appear that the quality of receptiveness, adaptability, and immitation, which are among the distinguishing traits of the modern Parsis, have been inherited by them from their remote ancestors.

The sad remnants of the sacred books of the Parsis, which have survived the successive vandalism of Assyrians, Greeks, Parthians, and Arabs, must not be supposed to derive their interest and importance on solely religious grounds. They have the additional merit of throwing light upon the secular history of the old days, as well as on the social life of the Iranian race, and the civil laws by which it was governed. It would appear that of the Aryan tribes in Central Asia, the Iranians claim to be the first to take the initial step in human civilization by settling down as agriculturists. In defence of their hearths and home-steads, their fields and cattle, they were at constant war with such of the tribes as had retained their nomadic life, with its instinctive love of plunder and rapine. They were also much harassed by those who, believing in a plurality of gods, were opposed to the monotheism of Zorooaster, and, who finally, sought a congenial home in India as Hindus. It is stated that when the Hindus went to war with their enemies, they got themselves inflamed with the intoxicating juice of the *Hom* plant, a circumstance to which the resourceful Sir Richard Temple once referred in Parliament, in answer to the oft repeated charge that the British rule was responsible for introducing ithe vice of drunkenness among an originally abstemious people.

There is, of course, no contemporary record, giving a succinct account of the social life and civil polity of the primeval society which, having got itself firmly rooted in the soil, gradually extended the boundaries of the region inhabited by it, till it came to rule over a mighty empire, and laid the foundations of renowned cities, some of which are extant to this day, such as Merv and Samarcand, Herat, Cabul, and Candahar. References to the state of the primitive society of those days may, however, be gleaned from the Avesta writings, enabling one to form a tolerably accurate picture—and a very interesting picture it is,—of the early times. The men were of splendid physique, being the product of a region, stern and wild. The very necessity of their existence made them hardy and industrious, with enormous powers of endurance. The scanty return which the cultivation of the soil yielded to them, taught them to be thrifty. They acquired very early the art of building, living in substantial houses, of which wood, stone, and morter, composed the principal materials. Fire, sacred to the Greeks, the Romans, and the old Germans, was kept constantly burning in their homes, and religiously fed with incense. The poor wore a dress of leather, and the better classes of cloths of various kinds. They knew the use of the precious as well as inferior metals. Their females adorned themselves with ornaments of gold and silver. The dress of the high-born dame consisted of a cap of gold brocade, a long flowing robe, with a waistband, setting off her graceful person, and shoes and stockings. The womankind was by no means under the subjection of the stronger sex. The wife was not the slave of her husband, but his consort, taking her proper share in the duties and conduct of the household. She was styled "the lady of the house" as her husband was its lord. The marriage of girls took place about the age of fifteen, so there would have been no need then for an Age of Consent Act, which is found necessary in India at the present day. As a general rule, parents selected husbands for their daughters, but sometimes girls sought out husbands for themselves. "Old maids," if there were any in the good old days, were considered as a disgrace to their parents. Children received education, morning and evening, in morality and religion, while the rest of the day was devoted to work at home or in the field. Geiger thinks the Avesta did not prohibit a plurality of wives. But in the absence of a positive recommendation in favour of polygamy, Mr. Desai prefers to believe that his ancestors must have contented themselves with the blessing of a single wife. The life of domestic animals, especially that of the dog, was held as sacred, rigorous punishments being decreed against those who practised any cruelty against them. We find that there was no room for "bogus doctors" in ancient Iran. There were schools of medicine, we are told, and the law was that the pupils turned out by them should at first try their "prentice hand" upon non-Zoroastrians only. If they succeeded with their heathen patients, then alone was a diploma issued to them for dealing with the more valuable lives of Zoroastrians. If in defiance of the rule, enjoining neophytes to confine their practice among persons outside the fold of Zoroastrianism, anyone of them dared to trifle with the life of a true believer, and the patient happened to die, the offender was liable to be charged with culpable homicide. In sickness, the first remedy tried were prayers and incantations, and these failing, the medicineman was called in.

A considerable portion of Mr. Desai's volumes is devoted to the political history of Iran which, as we have already observed, he traces from the earliest times, commencing with the Mehabadian dynasty. With regard to this dynasty, as well as the Peshdadyan and the Kyanian dynasties which followed it, it is difficult to separate mythical beings from historical personages. Under these rulers, the history of Iran is a record of greatness and glory, of mighty feats and wonderful prows in war. There is no doubt that it contains a sub-stratum of truth, and the natural predisposition of the author towards a large and easy faith in the glorious achievements of his ancestors is more than excusable. We are on much firmer ground, as we trace the progressive civilization and the growing empire of the Persians down to the Hakhamoyan dynasty, founded by Cyrus the Great, who conquered Babylon and released the Jews from captivity. After its overthrow, Macedonians and Parthians ruled for several centuries, before they were supplanted by Ardesheer Babegan, the first of Sassanides, who, having restored the Persian Monarchy, installed himself on the throne of his father's. The world was then divided, for the most part, between the Roman Empire in the West and the Persian Empire in the East. Their boundaries ran contiguous in many places, the points of contract furnishing grounds for conflict. Ardesheer made successful war against the Cæsars, and it was continued with greater success by his able and heroic son, Shapur, who inflicted a great humiliation on the Roman arms by taking the Emperor Valerian prisoner. The contest was maintained for a long number of years by Shapur's successors, and the fortune of war would appear from Mr. Desai's account to have been more decidedly on the side of the Persians than one might gather from the pages of a careful impartial historian like Gibbon. The causes which finally brought about the downfall of the Persian monarchy are remarkably similar to those which contributed to the decline and fall of the Roman Empire. The nation was enervated by luxury. The army was reduced to the state of an undisciplined rabble, given to violence and lawlessness under any chief who could satisfy its greed. Like the emperors on the Roman throne, king followed king in rapid succession, most of them meeting with a violent death at the hands of their rivals, who were often their nearest relations. As the Pretorian guards were instrumental in raising several of the Roman Military commanders to the throne of the Cæsars, so a Military chief at times owed the throne of the Persian kingdom to the army at his back. No wonder that, under these circumstances, the people should enjoy no sense of security, and that trouble, misgovernment and disaffection should prevail throughout the land. The empire was tottering to its fall, when Yezdazard, the last of the Sassanides, came to the throne, and the country fell an easy prey to the Arabs in 640 A.D. A remnant of the conquered race, escaping the sword and the persecution of the victors sought an asylum in India, where it does not need the pages of Mr. Desai to remind us that, under the fostering rule of the British, the Parsis have come to occupy a proud and predominant position among the subject races. We do not think any attempt has been made before at such a complete and elaborate history of the Parsis, and the success of Mr. Desai in presenting to his readers a clear, interesting and readable account is, in no small part, due to his great capacity for taking trouble, as well as to his conscientiousness.

An incident, which indicates the child-like simplicity of the South African native, is reported from King Williamstown. Several hundred Pondos had been engaged, says *South Africa*, for service on the new coast railway from Mossel Bay, and were to be entertained to a certain point. The "boys," however, could not be persuaded to enter the train, owing to the unaccountable impression which prevailed amongst them that they might be taken to Johannesburg, against which place they expressed a deep-rooted abhorrence. Avowals and entreaties were alike futile, and no other course was open to them but to tramp the weary 180 miles across the country, which they did with all the cheerfulness and light-heartedness of natives on the march.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

No direct orders have been issued by the Government of India on the subject of stopping officers' leave on account of the scarcity now prevailing, but more than one province has refused to allow officers to proceed on furlough, and in one or two cases has recalled them from leave.

WE regret to learn that the Hon'ble the Rev. Dr. Miller has returned to Madras from Yercaud seriously ill, and that much anxiety is felt with regard to his condition.

MR. H. R. H. COXE, District and Sessions Judge of Midnapur, has been allowed leave for five days in extension of the leave previously granted him. Mr. F. E. Pargiter, District and Sessions Judge, Cuttack, has been granted leave for two months and fifteen days, with effect from the 5th March, 1896.

ACCORDING to latest reports from the frontier, the Afghans are said to have despatched three regiments from Asmar into the Mohmand country on the left bank of the Kunar river, to a point fifteen miles below Asmar. It is rumoured that trouble is brewing between the Mohmands and the Khan of Nawagai, and that this is the cause of the Afghan movement.

THE weather was still clear and bright in Chitral up to 27th instant, and traffic over the Lowarai Pass continued brisk, quantities of heavy coolie loads having passed over from India during the preceding days. On the 27th, however, signs of a change of weather appeared with heavy clouds giving every promise of a snowfall.

DURING the twenty-four hours from 8 a.m. on Monday to the same time on Tuesday morning, light rain continued over these N.-W. Provinces, and all stations reporting to the Meteorological Department received something, though the amounts were generally insignificant, ranging from 0·01 at Gorakhpur to 60 cents. at Cawnpore. Ranikhet in the hills received one inch and showers continued over the east of the Punjab. As the *rabi* crop prospects in Cawnpore were, comparatively speaking, bright even before this week, this rain will do substantial good in that district at any rate.

THE "Madras Mail" of Wednesday says:—"We much regret to learn that the condition of the Right Reverend Bishop Mayer, who is suffering from typhoid fever, is causing very grave anxiety. His illness has reached a critical stage, and to-day's report is far from reassuring, we trust though we may have better news to-morrow. Another typhoid fever patient in Madras is Mr. J. L. Walker, the popular Secretary of the Madras Dramatic Society. The attack in his case is much milder than that of Dr. Mayer, and there is every reason to hope that he will soon be convalescent."

TUESDAY was perhaps the most interesting day of the Calcutta races, as the card contained both the Cooch Behar Cup and the Eclipse Pony Stakes. The Viceroy's Cup horses appeared to fight the battle out again, was that Jack o' Lantern, with 9st. 2lb., won, Courallie, who was giving the winner 6lb., was third, while Sprightly and Fortunatus were displaced. The Eclipse Stakes brought Mulberry and Screen together, but though Captain Fitzman's unrailed pony won comfortably, the mare apparently did not get a good start, and there are those who believe that she will still give Mulberry some trouble at Lucknow. Parvo, who was giving 10lb. and 12., divided the pair at the finish.

COLONEL THORNTON, late Commissioner of Ajmere, who has been placed on special duty by the Government of India, to examine and report upon the condition of those States of Rajputana and Central India, which are affected by scarcity and threatened with famine, will visit Central India after completing his tour in Bikanir and eastern Rajputana, arriving at Gwalior about the 25th January. Colonel Thornton will first visit the worse parts of Gwalior, and afterwards undertake a tour through Bundelkund and Baghelkund, which will probably occupy him until the end of March.

COLONEL D. BARR, Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, does not make his usual cold weather tour this season, owing to the scarcity and the inconvenience that his camp might therefore cause to the States concerned. He visits Bhopal on the 2nd January, principally, it may be conjectured, to consult with Her Highness the Begum on the appointment of a Minister in the place of the late Mushir Imtiaz Ali. From Bhopal, Colonel Barr goes to Gwalior to meet Maharaja Scindhia and to satisfy himself regarding the arrangements made by the Darbar for the relief of famine, and will then join the Political Agent in Bundelkund. During the remainder of the cold weather, and also probably during the hot weather to follow, the Governor-General's Agent will be making frequent trips by rail to places where famine relief-works are in hand.

CAPTAIN WELBY, of the 18th Hussars, and Mr. Malcolm, of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, arrived at Calcutta, on Monday, from China. They left Leh for Tibet on 4th May, their caravan consisting of thirty-nine animals with eleven attendants, and reached Shusat at the south end of Pongong lake without incident. Thence they struck due east across the Na Pu Pass, but were stopped on May, the 26.h, by Tibetans from the Rudok post, where there is a fairly large garrison. Finding it impossible to proceed, the travellers recrossed the Na Pu and went north for a time, but again turned eastward, thus following a more northerly route than that taken by Major Bower a few years ago. They reached Tsaidj on the 21st September and crossed the Chinese frontier at Tankar on the 15th October, meeting a missionary named Rijhart there. They had only three animals and four men left on arrival at Tsaidj, but they succeeded in hiring ponies to carry them on. Most of their men had deserted during the long toilsome journey. Pekin was reached on November 27th, the journey across China being made easy by their possession of passports.

THERE is not likely to be much legislation before the N.-W. P. Council for some time to come. The principal measure on the stocks, namely, the Village Sanitation Bill, will of course be kept there until a more favourable season. Sanitary improvements, on however small a scale, mean money, and this is not a time for imposing any extra expenditure on the rural community. Except this, there is no measure of importance under consideration, and the energies of the Government will be too fully occupied until next October at any rate with executive business to allow it to pay much attention to new legislative projects.

IT is understood that on the advice of the P.W.D. authorities, it is proposed to reduce the height of the anicut over the Kistna at Bezvada, experience during the recent floods having demonstrated the danger attending the increase in the height which was sanctioned and carried out some years ago. A most unfortunate result of reducing the crest of the anicut to its former level will be that the plans for irrigating a wider area will have to be abandoned.

THERE is quite a run of promotion just now in the Superior Branch of the Public Works Accounts Department. Mr. Marshall has resigned, in order to take up an appointment under the East Indian Railway, another officer is likely to shortly join the new Burma Railway Company, and three deaths have occurred among other officers during the current year. Next year, too, will see the retirement of Colonel Carey and Messrs. Gordon and Morrison, who will have to go under the 55 years' rule.

OF the Rs. 30,000, placed at the disposal of the Bengal Government by the Bengal Distress Relief Fund, Rs. 17,500 were apportioned to the Patna Division, and distributed by the Commissioner, Mr. J. A. Bourdillon, as follows: Sarun, Rs. 3,000; Chumparun, Rs. 3,500; and Muzufferpore and Durbhunga, Rs. 5,500 each.

THE world is by no means full up yet. Queensland has still an area of 430,000,000 acres to a population of about 450,000 people. Its Government has lately been offering more tempting conditions to settlers, who may now hold ordinary land for twenty years at a rental of 3*d.* per acre, while "scrub-land" may be selected in areas up to ten thousand acres and held for thirty years at an average rental per acre of very much less than a penny. This ought to be good news for many struggling for a bare living in the Mother Country. Of course the climatic conditions in many portions of the colony are trying, but so they are in Western Australia, which, at the present time, is adding 750 per week to its population, and the revenue of which has been increasing at a rate far outstripping the calculations of its treasurer. But this may be only temporary, and it may be that Queensland will be the home of millions of our fellow-countrymen after the Golden Age in the West of the Colonial Continent has passed away.

A TELEGRAM was received from the Queen in September last, in reply to one sent from about five hundred homeless men congratulating her on her lengthened reign. The Queen's acknowledgment was highly appreciated by the men, and, on hearing that a book was about to be issued descriptive of the work carried on at Medland Hall, they asked that a special copy might be prepared on their behalf and sent to Her Majesty. Those who were able contributed a halfpenny each, and thus defrayed the cost. Mr. E. Wilson Gates, of the Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street, has just received the following letter:—"Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Arthur Bigge presents his compliments to Mr. Edward Wilson Gates, and is commanded to express the Queen's thanks for the specially prepared copy of the book descriptive of the work at Medland Hall, sent on behalf of some of the homeless poor, who were met together there on 21st September last."

FEMININE FACTS AND FANCIES.

THE fashionable waist is exactly the shape of a flower-pot, perfectly stiff in its oblique inward line from under the arms. It owes much of this unnatural aspect to the prevalence of the highswathed belt, which, after all, is far from being generally becoming. In black over colour it has the effect of shortening the apparent height, whereas the aim of all the corsetieres and couturieres is to make the figure as long as possible. Only when it is in the same colour as the gown is this belt at all in consonance with the laws of aesthetieism. The latest development of this high belt is thickly strewn with coloured beads, the tints of which are as harsh as they are ill-assorted to each other. Turquoise, emerald, sapphire, and amethyst are all crowded together in an orgie of glitter, which has not even the quality of consciousness to redeem it from vulgarity. Pearls and paste are crowed in the same way upon the high belts of evening dresses, and girls at their first balls are encrusted with quantities of this cheap and tawdry ornamentation. It is regrettable. Perhaps Fashion may soon bethink her to make a change. A distinct improvement is to be recorded in other directions. The skirt continues to narrow, the sleeves to restrict themselves, and the hair is also showing a disposition to allow the shape of the head to be defined. Only hats continue large, and this is not unpardonable except at matinees, for so many charming faces are improved by the shadow thus cast over eyes and brow. White felt, trimmed with black velvet and black feathers, continues this favourite material. Coloured felts to suit the costume are also in great request. At a recent fashionable wedding one of the guests, a fair-haired, blue eyed girl, wore a costume of pale blue, slightly relieved with heliotrope, and a blue felt hat on which the same mixture of colours appeared in conjunction with the inevitable black ostrich feathers. Another guest, whose gown was in cloth and velvet of the exact tint of a ripe aubergine or to use a comparison more familiar, just the colour of a pickled cabbage, wore a felt hat to match, and a few touches of sky-blue velvet supplied the necessary contrast which is supposed to make any costume look "so very French."

Fortunately walking dresses are still made short enough all round to clear the ground. Any departure from this rule involves also departure from smart ness, and this of course is not to be thought of by those with any pretensions to be fashionably dressed. As yet the trimmed skirt is the exception, and those that have appeared are sufficiently insane to be self-condemnatory. Irrelevant frills which edge nothing, buttons which fasten nothing, braids and galoons which head nothing, purposeless slashes which might as well be laid on as breaking through, are features which have nothing to recommend them. In reverting to the dress modes of the sixties, some of our modistes appear to have adopted the trimmings without taking into account their reasons for being. What looked sensible enough when stretched over a huge crinoline loses meaning when applied to the clinging costume of the hour; for skirts have again begun to cling. There is a wide difference of opinion on this matter. Some houses, both in Paris and London still adopt the irrational and unbecoming horsehair stiffening whether throughout the entire skirt or only for a foot or so above the hem; while others are as careful to avoid anything that prevents the folds falling in straight lines. Tightness above is observed by all good makers in the skirt of the moment, and though the width at the hem becomes less, there is always a sufficient fulness at the back to throw out the gown at the heels, though none is permitted at the sides or in front.

The increasing neatness of the teagown is perhaps partly owing to the smartness of cut of its rival, the tea jacket. The materials of which the former, as illustrated, is composed are English printed velveteen and Spitalfields silk, with fine Nottingham lace and revers of English satin. The form is a pleasing one, showing little exaggeration. The puffs of the sleeves are in the printed velveteen, the under part in silk with tabs of white satin fastened with ornamental buttons holding them into the arms. Similar tabs appear on the bodice. This is an inexpensive and highly useful kind of dress, being suitable for all but the very ceremonious dinner parties, as well as for theatre, concert, and home wear. The dainty little to-jacket can be worn over any skirt. It is composed of plain velveteen. The model was in rose colour, with black chiffon sleeves and vandyked passementerie. The front was filled in with black gathered chiffon. These colours can of course be infinitely varied.

All the deep shades of plum-colour, heliotrope, violet, and mauve are seen in winter walking dress, and appear to be almost ousting the fashionable green from favour. The great charm of these two colours is that they both lend themselves so well to the dark fur trimmings which are increasingly worn with every year. Green cloth is often trimmed with black fox, while bisbon's purple is more frequently seen with addends of beaver or sable. It is not unusual to see an entire shoulder-cape in the fur with epaulettes and semi-zouave complete. Very often the effect of the fur is better when the quantity used is rather small. To it may be applied Ruskin's axiom as to colour, in which he tells us that moderation in its use achieves the highest results. Capes made entirely of fur, for instance, are seldom so becoming or so ornamental as similar garments in cloth with fur trimming. Well-made coats in cloth matching the skirt have the fur trimmings confined to the high collar and bands down the front, sometimes bordering them, sometimes depending in stole fashion. The use of braiding in conjuction with fur becomes more and more extensive. It is nearly always in black, and even when a colour is used it is only in combination with the latter, just as black feathers in the same sombre hue are indispensable on hats.

A lady writer on fashions advises her readers to make a point of choosing their evening dresses under gaslight. She says that what is described as a "good candlelight colour" is not invariably that which one would choose in the broad light of day, and many a material that is attractive enough by day assume quite a different complexion at night. Artificial flowers and ribbons are frequently found to have the chameleon-like property.

The new velvet hats are charming. One of black velvet, with high crown and broad waved brim, is trimmed with pale pink chrysanthemums, drooping ostrich feathers, and steel ornaments. A geranium coloured velvet, which sounds rather brilliant, is cleverly toned down with black cheuille as the brim lining, bands of sable, and black ostrich tips. Violets, market bunches of scented flowers, are as much worn this year as last.

It is considered ill-bred to wear elaborate dresses when the occasion does not demand it; to wear jewellery in the morning; rings and bangles should only be worn in an afternoon or evening; to use any amount of perfume on your handkerchief; very faint colour of violets or roses should pervade, but no decided scent; to criticise the acquaintances of your friends—their dress or manners; you should know that it cannot be pleasant to them to hear you.

A student of character declares that fair women may love their husbands as dearly as dark ones, but that in a time of trouble they are not able to prove such a comfort to them. Very fair women may dote on husband and children, but are not so constituted as to render them very great aid in a season of danger though their efforts so to do may be unlimited. A fair woman, when of a cruel nature, is spiteful and cunning; a dark woman similarly inclined is vicious and tyrannical.

The perfect hairpin has not yet been invented. The contrivance in its present state is unsatisfactory; it does not hold the hair. So long ago as 1897 the spiral pin was devised for the purpose; the wavy hairpin is still older. Neither of them does the work to please women. Some hairpins have been made rough and others wriggly in various ways; but they are inefficient. The latest hairpin has its points covered with a peculiar woolly fibre to keep it from slipping.

It is said that Messrs. Blondeau use about five thousand ounces of otto of roses every year, and when you remember that this liquid is more than worth its weight in gold, you will understand its extraordinary value. The precious liquid, says the "Sketch," has a strong room all to itself, where it is kept in curious to king flat flagons swathed in flannel. Although less than twelve inches long and only about six inches in diameter, each of them contains £180 worth of liquid. The same sized flagons, if filled with wine of the rarest and most costly vintage, would not be worth one-tenth of their present value.

Royalties are the most wonderful people for requiring little sleep. The Queen, who dines at a quarter to nine, and transacts no end of business besides writing or dictating several private letters every night before retiring, is awake and sipping a cup of cocoa before eight o'clock in the morning. The Princess of Wales, when at Sandringham, does not disdain to steal a little beauty sleep, but in London she rarely goes to bed before two o'clock in the morning, and is ready dressed for nine o'clock breakfast. The German Emperor—well, according to most accounts, he hardly goes to sleep at all; and the Empress is always up at cock-crow. The Emperor of Austria rises at four, whilst the Empress was positively the despair of the management of the bathing establishment at Aix-les-Bains when last she paid a visit there, since she insisted on taking her bath at the unearthly hour of 3.30 A.M.

A pathetic little drama was recently enacted in a French court of justice. A poor needlewoman was charged with stealing two gold coins from her employer. Her defence was this, while waiting in her employer's house, the child in her arms, unknown to her, was attracted by the sight of the glittering gold on the mantel shelf behind her, and, leaping forward over her shoulder, clutched the coins in its chubby fist, and had so carried them away. This she persistently and solemnly stated on oath. The Court, however, were incredulous, and reproved the mother for her attempt to deceive them. But she asserted her innocence with such pathetic power that the magistrate judge determined to test the truth of her statements. He bade her stand by his desk, with her child facing over her shoulder in the way she had described. Then he took several gold coins from his pocket, and placed them on the desk within reach of the child. A breathless silence ensued. Every one awaited the touching sequel. Then suddenly the child's eyes caught sight of the gleaming gold, and with an eager smile, the tiny hand was outstretched to the desks and the coins were clutched in its tenacious grasp. The mother was promptly acquitted.

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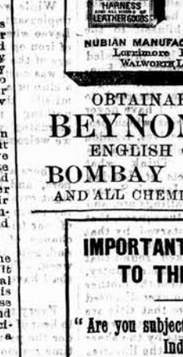

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☞ Beware of cheap imitations. The name—Ayer's Sarsaparilla—is prominent